

EXPANDED LEARNING TIMES

A quarterly newsletter of RCSD's More and Better Learning Time

January 2015

Introducing ... Expanded Learning Times

We are pleased to introduce this new e-newsletter of Rochester City School District's More and Better Learning Time initiative.

Through this quarterly newsletter, we will provide updates on expanded learning and on our school and student successes. If you have any questions about this initiative or about the information in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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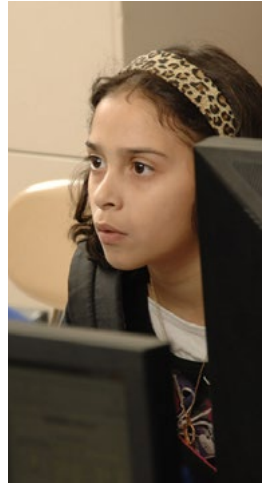
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More & Better
Learning Time

rcsdk12.org

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More Quality Learning Time

As Superintendent Bolgen Vargas outlined in RCSD’s 2014-2018 Action Plan, the District’s focused theory of action — to close the opportunity gap, provide middle-class opportunities, reduce interventions, improve outcomes, and stabilize finances — is based on the belief that all children can succeed if given the right opportunities and the support they need.

The District is committed to providing schools that utilize every available tool to engage students in positive activities.

Rochester students historically have received the least instructional time of any group of students in Monroe County and among the lowest in the nation. To improve achievement, the District is strategically adjusting time in school to make student learning and growth a constant.

One critical step the District has taken is to participate with the [National Center on Time & Learning](#) in the TIME (Time for Innovation Matters in Education) Collaborative, an innovative national program that expands learning time beyond the traditional school day and school year, to provide broader, more enriching learning experiences for students.

Through this effort, the District aims to help close the opportunity gap that puts low-income students at a severe disadvantage and to make up for “summer learning loss” resulting from time off during summer break, which disproportionately impacts students from low-socio-economic backgrounds.

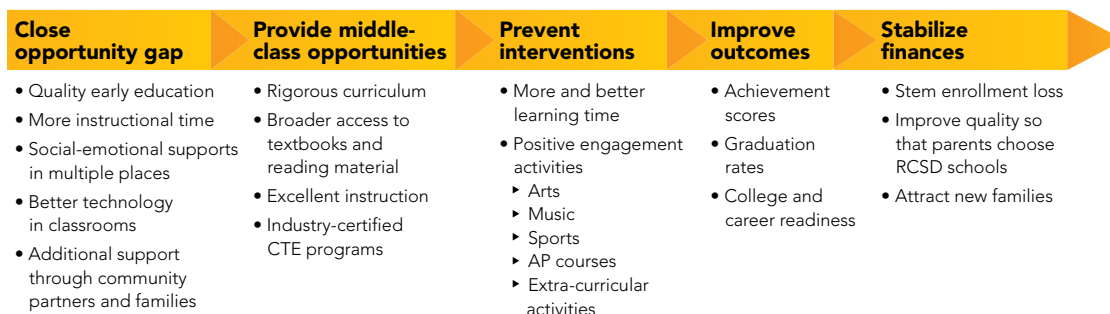
Students in expanded learning schools not only benefit from more time for learning, but also from enhanced individualized intervention, additional enrichment opportunities, and greater opportunities for development and family engagement. Expanded learning also ensures that students and teachers have the time and support necessary to teach and to learn.

Five schools in the District were selected for this program beginning in the 2013-14 school year and another five schools joined in September 2014. Schools were selected following a collaborative planning process involving teachers, administrators, community members, union officials, and parents.

Participating students at each school will receive 300 hours of scheduled school time, which equals eight more weeks of school than the typical school year.



A Focused Theory of Action for Student Success



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Expanded Learning Schools

Five District schools have offered expanded learning as TIME Collaborative schools since 2013:

[Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 9](#) — focusing on community-based, wrap-around services and on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

[Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10](#) — focusing on project-based learning, healthy lifestyle, and service learning

[Francis Parker School No. 23](#) — emphasizing a college-going culture; “college is our compass”

[Mary McLeod Bethune School No. 45](#) — focusing on community-based, wrap-around services, including academic supports, counseling, and recreational programming

[Charles Carroll School No. 46](#) — emphasizing arts integration, literacy-rich learning experiences, and healthy lifestyles

The five additional TIME Collaborative schools that started the program in September 2014 are Nathaniel Rochester Community School No. 3, Enrico Fermi School No. 17, Abraham Lincoln School No. 22, Adlai E. Stevenson School No. 29, and Dr. Louis A. Cerulli School No. 34.

Additional expanded learning schools are Lincoln Park School No. 44, Monroe High School, Northeast & Northwest High School, Wilson Commencement High School, Charlotte High School, and the Young Men’s Leadership Academy.



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Success Spotlight

Teachers and administrators at the District's expanded learning schools already are demonstrating progress in a short time.

School No. 9

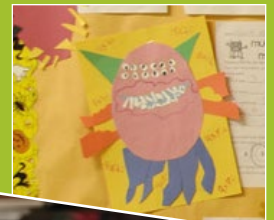


School No. 9 — the District's first school with an expanded schedule as a pilot program — achieved academic growth among the highest in the district.

School No. 10



School No. 10 achieved the best growth in the most recent state English Language Arts exam among the five original expanded learning schools.



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Thank You, Community Partners

Expanded learning is about more than simply adding time to the school day. Program success depends upon many factors, such as making the best use of the additional instructional time, providing opportunities that meet the needs of the child, and engaging the community.

Each school has the support of community partners to help make their individual ELT program successful. Current expanded learning partners in the original five schools include:

- [Baden Street Settlement](#) (School No. 9)
- [Borinquen Dance](#) (School No. 9)
- [Boys and Girls Club](#) (School No. 45)
- [Center for Youth](#) (School No. 45)
- [Girl Scouts](#) (School No. 9)
- [Greater Rochester Health Foundation](#) (School No. 10, No. 46)
- [IBERO](#) (School No. 9)
- [Memorial Art Gallery](#) (School No. 23)
- [Nazareth College / Mercier Literacy](#) (School No. 9, No. 46)
- [QUAD A for Kids](#) (School No. 10)
- [Rochester AmeriCorps](#) (School No. 46)
- [Rochester Museum and Science Center](#) (School No. 23)
- [The Strong - National Museum of Play](#) (School No. 23)
- [Xerox Consultants](#) (School No. 46)
- [Young Audiences of Rochester](#) (School No. 46)

Thank you to all of our partners
for their dedication to our students
and to more and better learning!



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