

MISSION: Rochester Education Foundation's mission is to provide programs and resources to improve learning and success for all Rochester city students through partnerships with educators, businesses, and the community.



WHAT WE DO:

REF collaborates with schools and community partners to fill resource gaps and provide meaningful experiences for Rochester city students. Our work has a profound, positive impact on students' success.



SMILE PROGRAM:

REF helps to build community within ALL RCSD elementary schools by funding parent/teacher organizations so that they have the autonomy to do programs and projects to bring joy to their students. Smile also makes learning fun by providing fun, memorable, interesting, hands-on learning experiences that complement the science curriculum. Examples include science cruises on the Genesee River, a life size whale in the gymnasium, hot air balloons, and so much more.



COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS:

REF convenes the Rochester College Access Network (RCAN). We bring college financial aid information and opportunities to students. We help bring all ninth grade Rochester students to visit a college campus. We help students fill out their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and search for scholarships so that they can get financial aid for college. We also offer workshops and resources to help students succeed in college. We host the Future Fair event for seventh graders which showcases career opportunities to bring inspiration, hope, and excitement for what is next after high school graduation.



GIVE BACK GIVE BOOKS:

It is so important that our students have the opportunity to get books of their own that help foster their love of reading. We provide books - more than 80,000 and counting.



MUSIC & ARTS FOR ALL:

We collect and distribute musical instruments - more than 3,700 and counting, as well as provide scholarships for music lessons and support of the RCSD Music and Arts Department, The Pride of Rochester Marching Band, and Roc City Players.

