

**Dr. Lesli Myers-Small**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Rochester City School District

**Dr. Shaun Nelms**  
Superintendent of East EPO

Dear Students, Families, and Staff Members of the Rochester City School District,

In late August, Governor Cuomo announced that low- and moderate-risk fall sports could begin to practice and play beginning September 21, 2020, in NYS districts who have determined it feasible to host interscholastic athletics. These sports include girls tennis, cross country, girls swimming/diving, boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, and Unified Bowling.

Last week, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association announced that football, volleyball, and competitive cheer seasons are postponed until March 1, 2021, as a result of concerns associated with high-risk fall sports. As the State provides additional guidance, a determination on winter sports is forthcoming.

After careful consideration, the Rochester City School District decided that since we are in a fully remote learning environment, it would not be in the best interest of our students to participate in low- and moderate-risk fall sports at this time. Understanding the complexities of this fluid situation, we are hopeful that our students will be able to participate in a delayed season in March 2021, along with football, volleyball, and competitive cheer.

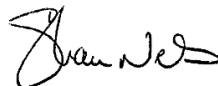
We understand that this is disappointing news to hear for our fall athletes and their families. While it was a difficult decision to make, just like our decision to begin the school year under the remote learning model, we believe it is the right course of action at this time to ensure the safety of students and staff. The District would like nothing more than to have each and every one of our students back in person, learning in classrooms and participating together in sports and extracurricular activities. However, in an urban district of our size, we feel that the decision to postpone fall sports is the most responsible one.

The health and well-being of our students and staff continue to guide us as our top priority, and we are committed to doing all that we can to support students and families in a remote environment. We are confident that we will move this District "Forward. Together. Now." We simply cannot do this work alone, and as our most valued partners, we hope you will join us in this effort.

Sincerely,



Lesli Myers-Small, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



Shaun Nelms, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, East EPO