



Rochester City School District

Every student by face and name.
Every school, every classroom. To and through graduation.

Lesli Myers-Small, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614

May 31, 2020

Dear Rochester City School District Families,

I write to you today with a heavy heart because of the current circumstances we are experiencing around our country and here at home. I openly wept as I watched the riots, marches, protests, and unrest unfold across the country. I have to say that I am struggling. I am angry. I am hurting.

The world has been watching since the tragic death of George Floyd last week in Minneapolis. While many people have expressed their right to protest, some have turned to violence, which we saw unfold yesterday in Rochester.

First and foremost, I want to make sure that everyone remains safe. I am asking that our students and their families adhere to the curfew set in place by Mayor Warren and the City of Rochester. That curfew is in effect from 9:00 p.m. tonight until 7:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

These violent acts are traumatizing for many of us – students, families, educators, and the community – and I share in your grief and distress. I think about how you are coping with all of this, especially when compounded with the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic. While I am always humbled and inspired by our students' strength and resilience, I also understand that now more than ever, we must provide them the social-emotional supports they need.

Beginning tomorrow, there will be several supports in place for students and families. Please visit our web site at www.rcsdk12.org/together for information about these resources. You can also call the RCSD Support Hotline at 585-262-8700 for any assistance you may need, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Also tomorrow, members of the Student Support Services team will be available to support students as needed at all meal distribution sites from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who participated in the clean-up efforts across the city this morning. It shows that we are RCSD together, and we will support one another in times of difficulty. Please know that we are in this together.

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