

Rochester Board of Education

Roc BOE News



Board Goals: September 2023 to June 2028

Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who are proficient on the NYS ELA assessment from 16% to 40%.

All students reading by third grade - Increase the percentage of students proficient on the 3rd grade NYS ELA from 15% to 50%.

Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who are proficient on the NYS Math assessment from 14% to 40%.

Increase the number of students earning 5 or more credits in 9th grade from 70% to 90%.

Inside this issue:

Student Outcomes Focused Governance	2
Advisory Group Corner	2
Policy Review Process	3
Code of Conduct	3
Promotion and Retention of Students	3
Engaging with the Board	4

President's Desk

Despite the challenges we face, there is one observation that holds true - The Rochester City School District consists of some amazing students and staff!

As the first marking period comes to a close, the remainder of this year provides significant opportunities for reflection, celebration, and growth. I am ever so grateful for our community partnerships and collaborations, as well as the resilience, tenacity, and dedication demonstrated by our students, families, and the RCSD community.

As we look forward to the coming year, we expect renewed momentum in our governance work with the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS). Through the Council's guidance, the Rochester

Board of Education will continue to focus our leadership lens on specific student outcomes to ensure every child receives the academic and social-emotional supports needed to be successful.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our students. Together, we are building a District where excellence and community remain at the heart of all we do. **#ONERCSD #STRIVEFORFIVE**

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" - Frederick Douglass

With Gratitude,

Camille Simmons
Board President



Student Outcomes Focused Governance

Student Outcomes do not change until adult behaviors change.

What is the Board currently working on?

During the September 16, 2025 work session, in collaboration with the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS), the Board:

1. Reviewed the synopsis report from the August 2025 community listening sessions and compared the results to the adopted 2023-28 Board goals.
2. Developed three guardrails.

What are guardrails?

Guardrails define what the District will not do while pursuing goals, based on community values, and ensure that what matters most to families is protected.

What are next steps for the Board?

- ◆ Finalization and adoption of the Board's three guardrails.
- ◆ Creation of measurable interim guardrails by the Superintendent.

- ◆ Making a decision to change the 2023-28 Board goals timeline to reflect 2025-2030 and updating the percentages to reflect the current data.
- ◆ Development of interim goals.
- ◆ The Board will create a schedule to go back out in the community with updates.

For more information about the Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG) framework, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/sofg>.

DID YOU KNOW....

Every two years in January, new and reelected Commissioners are sworn in to the Rochester Board of Education.



DID YOU KNOW....

Annually in January, Commissioners elect a President and Vice President of the Rochester Board of Education to serve as leadership for the year.



Advisory Group Corner

Get Involved in District-wide Advisory Groups!

Are you a **current** RCSD student or parent? Are you aware that the Board has three parent and one student District-wide sanctioned groups?

For Students

The Student Leadership Congress (SLC) is a body of student leaders representing their respective high schools and serves as the voice of students to the Board of Education, Superintendent, District administration, and community leaders. Participating members offer their perspectives on education policies, school climate and

inform their administrators about relevant citywide school issues. For more information, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/youth>.

For Parents

There are many District-wide sanctioned parent groups for parents and caregivers to participate in to assist them with advocacy for their child's education. Most parent groups meet monthly.

District-wide sanctioned parent groups include:

1. Bilingual Education Council (BEC)

2. Parent Leadership Advisory Council (PLAC)
3. Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

For more information about each District-wide group, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/parentgroups>, or contact the Office of Parent Engagement by emailing parentcenter@rcsdk12.org or calling 585-324-9999.

To learn more about participating in a school-based student or parent group, contact the school.



Policy Review Process

The Board is legally required to adopt policies that guide the District's administration, instruction, student rights, fiscal management, and more. These include policies mandated by law, those recommended as best practice, and others specific to the District. The Superintendent is responsible for carrying out these policies, which may include developing regulations that outline the procedures for their implementation.

Policies Under Review

The Board reviews its policies continuously with the help of advisory groups, the Superintendent,

District content experts, and other stakeholders.

Policies under review by the Board will be discussed during a public Board meeting, typically starting at work sessions. Policies under review follow the process outlined in policy 2410, Policy Management, that essentially includes a three month review and reading process for the Board to vote to adopt, amend or rescind a policy.

The public can provide feedback to policies under review at a Speaker Forum or written comments by emailing boardofeducation@rcsdk12.org.

Visit <https://rcsdk12.org/boarddocs> to follow the policies under review and for the policy review process.

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Policies Not Under Review

Have policy recommendations for a new policy or existing policy not under review? The public can submit written feedback by completing exhibit 2410-E1, Criteria for Policy Analysis. For exhibit 2410-E1, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/2410e1>.



Promotion and Retention of Students

It is essential that each child experience both productive struggle and success from school activities. To this end, the District will make every effort to place each student in the most appropriate learning environment for a successful educational experience and will ensure the student has access to high-quality, grade-level appropriate, tier-one instruction.

District curriculum guides indicate goals for achievement by the "average" student at each grade level. However, academic growth, like physical growth, does not take place at the same pace or

time for all individuals. Certain students may achieve mastery in a shorter period, while others need additional time. Early identification and intervention, promotion, acceleration and retention are methods of meeting the needs of such children.

Early identification and intervention is essential to ensure each students' educational goals and needs are met in order to progress to the next grade. Early identification and intervention also allows the student, family, and essential school staff to work together to create a plan in cases

when students are in jeopardy of being retained. To this end it is essential for families to review progress reports, quarterly report cards, and transcripts.

Policy 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students, provides the following guidelines to govern student progression :

1. Early Identification/Intervention
2. Promotion/Retention
3. Promotion Process and Timeline for K-12
4. Grade Acceleration

For the full policy, visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/policy>.

"We have to confront ourselves. Do we like what we see in the mirror? And, according to our light, according to our understanding, according to our courage, we will have to say yea or nay - and rise!"

- Maya Angelou

Can Someone Please HELP ME?!

Oftentimes our District families, staff, and community reach out to the Board Office, a Board member, and/or register to speak at a Board meeting because they do not know who to call, or they feel unseen or stuck. FRUSTRATION!

While the Board and its Board department are always happy to assist our families, going directly to the District staff who can resolve the issue is often the fastest way to get help. The right connection makes all the difference.

When you are not sure where to start, here are two resources available to you:

RCSD Family Services:

When our families have an issue or concern, we want to provide you with a clear method for communicating those concerns. We ask that you follow the process outlined on <https://www.rcsdk12.org/familyservices>, which provides the appropriate steps to take for most school-related issues.

Let's Talk!

Customer Service Platform:

The District is utilizing Let's Talk! to help create new lines of communication for school and District services for parents, staff, students, and our community to access anytime, anywhere. Visit <https://www.rcsdk12.org/letstalk> for more information on the Let's Talk! platform.

Clear communication helps us resolve concerns faster, so we can stay focused on what matters most—our students' success.





Board of Education Meetings

WHEN ARE PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS: The Board of Education meets monthly the second Tuesday at 6pm for Work Sessions, the third Tuesday at 5:30pm for Speaker Forums, and the fourth Thursday at 6pm for Business Meetings. At least once a year, the Board meets the first Tuesday at 6pm for Audit Committee meetings. Periodically, the Board may convene for other public meetings. For the Board's most up to date calendar, visit www.rcsdk12.org/calendar.

WHERE ARE BOARD MEETINGS HELD: Unless otherwise specified, all Board meetings can be accessed in-person at 131 West Broad Street, 14614 in Conference Room 3A/3B, or online at www.rcsdk12.org/youtube or www.rcsdk12.org/rcsdtv.

WHERE ARE BOARD MEETING MATERIALS: All Board meeting agendas and materials can be found at www.rcsdk12.org/boarddocs. Meeting materials are typically available two days prior to the meeting.

SPEAKER FORUMS: The Board values community input, as it directly informs discussions and decisions. Beginning September 2025, the Board will host a monthly **Speaker Forum** to receive comments on topics from recent Board agendas, including committee meetings, work sessions, business meetings, and other public meetings since the last forum. Forums will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the **third Tuesday of each month** (unless otherwise noted). An individual may register to speak and/or submit a written comment by contacting the Board of Education office by noon on the day of the meeting, by calling (585) 262-8525 or emailing boardofeducation@rcsdk12.org. The following information must be included: name, telephone number, email address, home address, affiliation (student, parent, community member or staff) and the topic on which the individual wishes to speak on. Excluding staff, individuals who do not reside within the City of Rochester do not have the privilege of speaking and/or submitting written comments at meetings, except when exception is granted by the chair of the forum. **Excluding public hearings, Speaker Forums will be the only opportunity for the community to address the Board.**

We're on the Web!

www.rcsdk12.org/boe

Board Upcoming Public Events

- ⇒ Tuesday, November 4, 2025: *Work Session (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, November 18, 2025: *Speaker Forum (5:30 pm)*
- ⇒ Thursday, November 20, 2025: *Business Meeting (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, December 2, 2025: *Audit Committee (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, December 9, 2025: *Work Session (6:00 pm)*
- ⇒ Tuesday, December 16, +2025: *Speaker Forum (5:30 pm)*
- ⇒ Thursday, December 18, 2025: *Business Meeting (6:00 pm)*

Become a Parent or Student Advisor

Starting January 2026, Parent Advisors and Student Advisors serving in an advisory capacity to monthly Board Work Session may be appointed in alignment with exhibit 2300-E3. The Board recognizes the role that parents and students play in our school communities and requests that parents and students play an active part in the fiscal oversight and accountability functions of the Board.

WHO CAN SERVE?

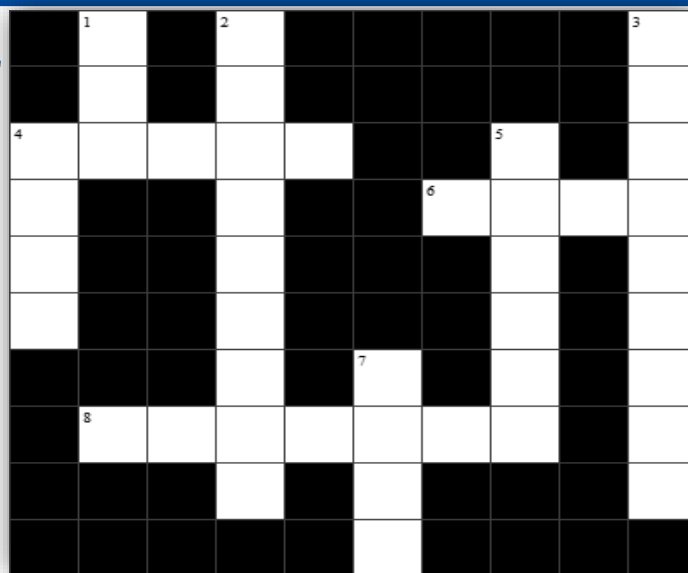
Interested Parents: Only parents and legal guardians of students currently attending the Rochester City School District who are not employees of the District will be allowed to serve.

Interested Students: Only students currently attending a Rochester City School District school, in grades 8th through 12th, having good academic standing, and on track to graduate will be allowed to serve.

For more information and how to apply, visit www.rcsdk12.org/boerep.

CONTACT US:

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ACROSS

4. Number of Commissioners on the Rochester Board of Education.
6. Number of years a Commissioner of the Rochester Board of Education serves per term.
8. The month of the year a new and reelected Commissioner is sworn in.

DOWN

1. Number of bosses the Superintendent has.
2. The legally required leadership role of the Board.
3. Website to find Board meeting

agendas, resolutions, minutes, and other materials.

4. Abbreviation of the governance model adopted by the Board in 2024.
5. One of the items the Board is responsible for adopting to provide direction to the Superintendent.
7. The platform where Board members sit during public Board meetings and hearings.

Puzzle Answer:

<https://www.rcsdk12.org/rocboenews>