

Pathways to High School Success

The Mission of the Rochester City School District is to educate all students to their highest levels of performance. The Rochester Board of Education affirms its commitment to the continuous improvement of instructional programs and services for students.

Students in urban districts continue to demonstrate that when given appropriate instruction and support they will do well in rigorous courses and perform more than satisfactorily on state assessments. The Board of Education recognizes that students learn and develop at different rates and that educational needs are not always met by the traditional four-year course of study. To inspire and enable students to complete high school with the skills needed for success in college and careers, the District offers the following additional academic Pathways:

Five-year diploma program:

This program will allow students in grades 9-13 to progress at their own pace by providing a five-year course of study that is not predicated on failure. Spreading four years of courses over five years and increasing the amount of time spent in each course will allow students more time to focus and succeed. It would be expected that over time, they would make academic progress and in the fifth year of high school could take additional courses in areas of interest or advanced courses in the career or college field of their choice.

This program will also provide students in grades 8-12 with an accelerated experience in which students begin taking high school courses in eighth grade.

Opportunities to take credit-bearing courses during the summer will be offered in both models. This will place the District on a “trimester” schedule (fall/winter, spring, summer) similar to that used at the college level. The program will also use individualized scheduling to allow students to spend longer blocks of time in areas where they specifically need more academic help. Working with teachers and parents, counselors will determine these areas of need and structure a student’s schedule accordingly.

Three-year diploma program:

This program will allow students to take four years of high school courses in three years, including summers as an option. College-level courses could then be taken during the traditional 12th grade year. Students may also become involved in apprentice programs, meaningful volunteer work or other non-traditional experiences in their field of study.

This Pathway will allow students to further develop their leadership skills, obtain additional credit toward college, and gain meaningful work experience for success in life.

Rochester City School Board Policy Manual

Implementation:

This plan is approved for implementation in September 2001 with the intervening year designated for selection of criteria for identifying students who would benefit from these programs, for in-service training of staff, for revision of school master schedules and summer school offerings for 2001, for professional development of staff, and for development of an evaluation process for the programs.

Cross-ref: 4000, Instructional Goals

Note: New policy, July 20, 2000 (Resolution No 2000-2001: 138)