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## **Rochester City School District 2025 – 2026 Budget Approved by Board of Education**

(May 12, 2025) This evening, the Rochester Board of Education passed the 2025 – 2026 budget totaling \$1,117,571,955. This budget reflects the District’s priorities and underscores its commitment to literacy, equity, academic rigor, and safe, supportive schools.

### **Budget highlights include:**

- **Increasing the number of students reading by third grade**  
The budget allocates funding to early literacy so students can achieve reading proficiency by third grade, a key milestone in academic success. Investments are grounded in the science of reading and supported by enhanced professional development for educators.
- **Increasing ELA and mathematics proficiency in grades 3 – 8**  
Targeted resources are directed toward strengthening English Language Arts and mathematics instruction in grades 3–8, improving student outcomes through evidence-based strategies and curricular alignment.
- **Increase 9th-grade students’ attainment of 5 or more credits**  
The budget supports initiatives that boost high school readiness by increasing the number of 9th-grade students earning five or more credits, a critical indicator of on-time graduation.
- **Continued enhancement of District-wide curricula**  
Ongoing investments are made to enhance curricula across grade levels, including expanded access to rigorous coursework and high-quality instructional materials aligned with state standards.
- **Prioritizing Tier 1 Instruction and Intervention Services**  
The budget prioritizes high-quality core instruction and professional learning to ensure all students receive consistent, foundational academic support.
- **Strengthening Career and Technical Education programs across the District**  
Funding supports the expansion of college and career pathways, ensuring students graduate with the skills and experiences needed for postsecondary success.
- **Social-Emotional Learning**  
The budget allocates funding to strengthen social-emotional learning (SEL) initiatives, supporting safe, supportive environments that help students navigate challenges and stay on track toward graduation.

“This budget reflects the District’s commitment to providing the resources and opportunities that will help our students, families, and staff to thrive,” said Dr. Demario Strickland, Interim Superintendent of Schools. “We remain focused on empowering every student to activate their dreams and unlock their full potential.”