ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC AND FISCAL PLAN 2025-2026 DRAFT

JAIME ALICEA STATE MONITOR

MARK POTTER FISCAL CONSULTANT



June 10, 2025



Requires the Commissioner to appoint a Monitor to the Rochester City School District to provide oversight, guidance and technical assistance related to the academic and fiscal policies, practices, programs and decisions of the District, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent.

The legislation was extended in May 2025 for two more years.



Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020



- > Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board.
- Assist the Board in adopting a Conflict of Interest policy that ensures board members and administrators act in the District's best interest.
- ➤ Work with the Board to develop a proposed academic improvement plan and proposed financial plan for the District no later than November 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year and the four subsequent school years.
- ➤ Beginning with the 2021-22 school year budget, ensure that each annual budget is balanced and consistent with the District's long-term financial plan.



Responsibilities of the Monitor



- ➤ Provide semi-annual reports on the academic, fiscal, and operational status of the District.
- Assist in resolving any disputes and conflicts between the Superintendent and the Board and among members of the Board.
- ➤ Authority to disapprove travel outside the State paid for by the District;
- ➤ Recommend cost saving measures including, but not limited to, shared service agreements; and;
- ➤ Notify the Board in writing regarding violations of the academic and/or financial plan.
- Beginning with the 2021-22 school year budget, ensure that the budget is balanced and consistent with the District's long-term financial plan.



The plan must include:

- ➤ Long-Term Goals/Outcomes
 - Desired impact that will result from implementing monitor recommendations.
- > Recommendations
 - What actions must be taken by the district.
- ➤ Alignment to Strategic Plan Priorities/Goals



The RCSD Draft Plan Includes:

- ➤ Long-Term Goals/Outcomes
- > Recommendations
- ➤ Strategic Plan Priorities/Goals
- ➤ District Evidence

Academic Plan						
Long-Term Goals/Outcomes	Strategic Plan Priorities/Goals	Recommendation	District Evidence			
The percentage of tested students in grades 3-8 who are proficient on the NYS ELA assessment will increase from 16% to 20% by June 2026. The number of students earning five or more credits in 9th grade will increase from 70% to 90% by June 2028.		A-7: Continue the implementation and assess progress towards meeting the SMART goals adopted by the board during the 2023-24 school year to improve student achievement and increase graduation rate.				



Recommendations	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Active	92	67	48	44

- ➤ Turn Around Leadership 9
- ➤ Talent Development 6
- ➤ Instructional Transformation 20
- ➤ Culture Shift 4
- ➤ Systems, Resources and Structures 5
- > 5 New Recommendations
 - > A-1, A-3, A-6, A-21, A-35





Highlights...

- A-1: The Board of Education (the board) shall support the new superintendent of schools to ensure a positive transition in leadership in the Rochester City School District (RCSD).
- Provide meaningful feedback, aligned to the superintendent's goals for the 2025–2026 school year.
- Complete a mid-year evaluation by January 2026 and annual evaluation by July 2026.

- A-3: The board shall engage in professional development with NYSSBA related to duties and expectations for elected board members in New York State.
- 1. The board shall participate in a retreat to work on rebuilding fractured interpersonal relations, to ensure the board continues to focus on improving student outcomes in the RCSD.



A-4: During the 2025–2026 school year, the board shall continue to:

- 1. Conduct board meetings in a manner that is transparent and consistent with the Open Meetings Law, district policy and board by-laws.
- 2. Begin all business meetings and special meetings with a roll call for attendance. Commissioners not in attendance shall be excused for valid reasons.
- 3. Be fiscally responsible with all district resources.
- 4. Ensure all hiring and personnel decisions made by the superintendent are based on district, school, and student needs and ensure that the justification for hiring personnel includes evidence of a candidate's certification eligibility and suitability to effectively perform the duties of the position.
- 5. Make decisions that are aligned with the district's goals.



A-6: The Chief for East Upper School and East Lower school shall monitor the implementation of the transition plan between the RCSD and the East Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) to return the schools to the RCSD for the 2025—2026 school year.

1. The Chief for East Lower and Upper Schools shall present quarterly to the board regarding the implementation of the plan.



- A-20: The district shall implement and monitor the actions that shall result in resolution of all conditions in the Commissioner's Regulation (CR) Part 154 Corrective Action Plan imposed on the district by the New York State Education Department Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL).
- 1. By September 2025, the superintendent's designee shall monitor the established systems and structures to admit all students, specifically newly arrived immigrant students, unaccompanied minors, and English language learners (ELLs) new to the district.
- 2. implement the standard operating procedures for the registration and placement of bilingual students.
- 3. the district shall develop, implement and monitor standard operating procedures for students entering/exiting the newcomer program. The procedures must be aligned to the requirements of law and regulations.
 - Teachers in the program shall hold certification in the content area.
 - The program shall be available to any non-English speaking student.
 - Students shall be integrated with English speaking students.



- 4. provide all families with the complete orientation process, which includes the explanation of programming options available to any ELL entering the district, as per Commissioner's Regulations (CR) Part 154. The various programming options must be presented to all families, no matter what the language is spoken at home.
- 5. continue to implement and monitor the action plans developed during the 2024-2025 school year to address the State recommendations regarding CR Part 154 audit.
- 6. submit documentation to the State monitor one week prior to CAP submissions.



A-21: The district shall conduct an audit of the bilingual education and the English as a new language curriculum, to ensure it is aligned to the Next Generation Standards.



A-26: District administration shall continue to adhere to all provisions of the CAP administered to the district by office of Special Education by adhering to the following:

- In accordance with §200.4(b)(5), the RCSD must ensure the committee on special education (CSE) and other qualified professionals review existing evaluation data to identify what additional data, if any, are needed as part of an initial evaluation or reevaluation.
- In accordance with §200.4(b)(6)(vii), the RCSD must ensure students referred to the CSE for an initial evaluation or reevaluation are assessed in all areas of suspected disability.
- In accordance with §200.4(b)(1) the RCSD must ensure that an initial evaluation includes the following:
 - a physical examination in accordance with the provisions of sections 903, 904 and 905 of the Education Law.
 - an individual psychological evaluation, except when a school psychologist determines after an assessment of a schoolage student, pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subdivision, that further evaluation is unnecessary.
 - a social history.
 - an observation of the student in the student's learning environment (including the regular classroom setting) or, in the case of a student of less than school-age or out of school, an environment appropriate for a student of that age, to document the student's academic performance and behavior in the areas of difficulty; and
 - other appropriate assessments or evaluations, including a functional behavioral assessment for a student whose behavior impedes his or her learning or that of others, as necessary to ascertain the physical, mental, behavioral and emotional factors which contribute to the suspected disabilities.



A-35: The new superintendent should reorganize the district to promote alignment and implementation of best practices to increase student achievement.

1. All instructional departments should be under the division of teaching and learning.



Recommendations	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Active	54	41	32	33

- ➤ General Fiscal Practices 15
- ➤ Governance and Programmatic Decision-Making 2
- ➤ Legal and Financial Audits 5
- ➤ Budget Development 6
- ➤ Structure and Internal Operational Efficiency 4
- \triangleright Transportation 1
- ➤ 3 New Recommendations F-1, F-15, F-28





Highlights...

F-1: The district shall secure a permanent Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and a Budget Director no later than October 31, 2025

F-13: The Department of Human Capital shall continue to work with the Department of Finance and the Department of Information Management Technology to monitor the implementation of the new position control system in ORACLE.

F-15: The district administration shall continue to monitor the allocation of federal funds in the event there are reductions in the different funding sources. In the event there are reductions, the district shall develop a plan to reallocate local funds to continue to provide services to the students.



F-17: No later than December 31, 2025, district leadership shall submit a monthly analysis of the vacancy reports to the executive cabinet, fiscal consultant, and the State monitor. This information will be used in the development of the 2026-2027 school year budget.

F-28: The district shall include the State monitor and the Fiscal Consultant in any discussion/revision of the 2025–2026 school year budget.



F-32: The board shall monitor the development and implementation of the Facilities Management Plan (FMP).

1. The program manager shall continue to present to the board quarterly reports to share the progress of the plan's implementation.



RCSD Academic and Fiscal Plan Public Hearing June 26, 2025

Public comments can be shared with the state monitor through email at:
jaime.alicea@rcsdk12.org





