



We Will Treat Every Child Like One of Our Own

An Action Plan for the Rochester City School District

**Presentation to the Board of Education
Dr. Bolgen Vargas, Superintendent of Schools
March 18, 2014**



Our Mission

To provide a quality education that ensures our students graduate with the skills to be successful in the global economy.

Our Vision

***Every child is a work of art.
Create a masterpiece.***



Our Challenge

We know that every child has the desire and potential to succeed.

We cannot provide all of our students a stable home or supportive neighborhood. But we can provide schools where they are surrounded by caring adults who give them the time, love, and support they need. We will treat every child like one of our own.

25 Years of Attempts to Improve Rochester Schools

Reform Initiative

- Middle schools
- Themed schools
- Schools within schools
- Phase-in/Phase-out
- 6 ELA curricula in 12 years

Result

- Instability for students, families and staff
- No improved outcomes

Our community is running out of patience.

We are running out of time.

Our Priorities

1. Student Achievement and Growth

Reading on Grade Level by Third Grade

More and Better Learning Time

Instructional Excellence

2. Effective,
Efficient
Allocation of
Resources

3. Communication
and Customer
Service

4. Parent, Family
and Community
Involvement

5. Management
Systems

Theory of Action

A Focused Theory of Action for Student Success

Close opportunity gap

- › Quality early education
- › More instructional time
- › Social-emotional supports in multiple places
- › Better technology in classroom
- › Additional services through community partners

Provide middle-class opportunities

- › Rigorous curriculum
- › Access to textbooks
- › Excellent instruction
- › CTE programs
- › Positive engagement: Arts, music, sports, extracurricular activities, AP courses

Reduce interventions

- › Misbehavior
- › Special education
- › Truancy
- › Retention
- › Dropout

Improve outcomes

- › Achievement scores
- › Graduation rates
- › College and career readiness

Stabilize finances

- › Stem enrollment loss
- › Reduce charter expansion
- › Attract new families (e.g., RCSD staff)

Our actions are grounded in the belief that all children can succeed if we give students and staff the time, opportunities and support they need.

Putting Theory Into Practice

How We Must Work Differently

- Responsive
- Accountable
- Disciplined

What We Must Do

- Maintain relentless focus on our priorities to improve educational outcomes

Student Achievement and Growth

More and better learning time

- End early dismissal Wednesdays
- Five expanded learning schools
 - 300+ hours extra instruction and support
 - Up to seven more schools in 2014-15
- 13 extended learning schools
 - 200 hours of optional extra instruction and support
- We will be a leader in reducing summer learning loss

Student Achievement and Growth

Reading by 3rd grade

- All four-year-olds in quality pre-kindergarten
 - Expand full-day beyond 70%
- Summer reading support for all pre-K to 3 students
- Common Core literacy curriculum



Student Achievement and Growth

Instructional Excellence

- Professional learning and coaches
- Demonstration classrooms
- Principal training
- Using data to guide instruction
- January 2014 Regents: More students took and passed the ELA and Algebra exams

Student Achievement and Growth



Additional Actions

- **Consistent time for core instruction**
- **Improving Career and Technical Education**
 - BOCES provides better opportunities
 - Moving immediately on industry assessments, state approvals
 - Exploring EPO model to expedite improvement
- **Modernizing Special Education**
 - 19% graduation rate compared to 47% statewide
 - Expanding the continuum of services
 - Parent meeting on Saturday, March 22nd

Prevention Strategy Supports Achievement

Physical and Emotional Outlets

Positive Engagement Is a Priority

We are spending more
for arts, music, sports, and
extracurricular activities
despite annual budget gaps



Including

59 new sports programs

6 more music teachers

5 more art teachers

In 2013–14 compared to last year

Social/Emotional Supports

- At least one full-time social worker in every school (2014-15)
- Student support teams
- Outside services

Less spending on retention and intervention over time

Effective, Efficient Allocation of Resources

- We will close our structural budget gap by 2018
 - Detailed long-term budgets will begin in 2014-15
- \$51.8 million in operational efficiencies since 2011
 - Collaborative new health plan
 - School-based tutoring
 - State and national efficiency grants add to the benefit.
- Neighborhood school transportation pilot (2014-15)
- Ongoing efficiencies through EEMT team

Communication and Customer Service



- Student Placement moved to C.O.
- Back-to-school orientations
- 48-hour response times
- Wegmans training

Parent, Family and Community Involvement



- Student attendance
- Community-wide task force on youth behavior
- Reading outside of school
- Liaisons in every school to work with parents

Management Systems



- Rigorous evaluations of all staff
- High ethical standards
- Increased stability
- New textbook system in place 2014-15
- External organizations to manage one or more schools in 2015-16

By 2018, RCSD Actions Will:

- **Close the opportunity gap** in art, music, sports, extra-curricular activities, high-quality instruction, AP courses and CTE
- Make us a national leader in **reducing summer learning loss**
- Show dramatic **improvements in student attendance, behavior, and effort**
- Result in **strong new management approaches**
- **Close the structural budget gap**

By 2018 RCSD Students Will Achieve:

TARGETS	BASELINE (2012-13)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Attendance	91%	91%	92%	93%	94%	95%
3 rd Grade Reading	5%	10%	15%	25%	50%	60%
Graduation	48%	50%	60%	65%	70%	70%
College Readiness	5%	7%	10%	20%	25%	30%
Grade 3-8 ELA	5%	10%	15%	25%	50%	60%
Grade 3-8 Math	5%	10%	15%	25%	50%	60%
Growth Scores	4.6%	6%	8%	9%	11%	13%

Yes, We Can!



Our staff is highly trained and talented. Our students have the desire and potential to succeed. We have the support of a generous community. Working together, we can make Rochester the best city in urban America to teach, work in or attend a school.



We Will Treat Every Child Like One of Our Own

An Action Plan for the Rochester City School District

**Presentation to the Board of Education
Dr. Bolgen Vargas, Superintendent of Schools
March 18, 2014**