STATE OF OUR CHILDREN
REPORT CARD
2018
EVERY CHILD... CRADLE TO CAREER

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OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

In 2011, ROC the Future began as a StriveTogether community (one of 70 nationwide), using collective impact to address very complex issues impeding positive outcomes for children. In late 2016, we embarked upon a year-long strategic review and planning process to refine our objectives and priorities, and to develop a plan of action to help us achieve our goals. Our new Outcomes Framework intensifies our approach to fully understand core outcomes, identify and prioritize what makes the most difference to improve them, target resources and support, and monitor progress towards achieving improvement. This year, in addition to our work with Collaborative Action Networks (CANs) and on kindergarten readiness, we have launched Outcome Teams to help improve early grade literacy and high school graduation, and to build the capacity of our community to take on this work.
EVERY CHILD IS SCHOOL READY

GOAL 1
SCHOOL READINESS TEAM

The first three years of a child’s life are when the human brain develops more rapidly than at any other time and constitute an opportunity for enormous social, emotional, language, physical, and intellectual growth. However, children’s growth depends in large part on their environments. The more positively stimulating the environments are for children, the greater their growth. Healthy supportive early environments set the stage for children growing into successful adults. Providing families and their children with access to high-quality early care and education, to critical knowledge and information on typical child development and creating healthy environments are some of the best investments we can make for our families and children.

Kindergarten readiness is a gateway to future academic achievement and life success. During the first five years, children need to develop fundamental skills across all developmental areas to build strong foundations for self-awareness, coping skills, strong relationships with others, physical prowess, problem solving and language. To supplement important ongoing influences of home environments, participation in high quality Pre-K programs influences long-term academic success and helps children master many important developmental skills.

Recognizing the above, since 2011, ROC the Future’s School Readiness Outcome Team focused on School Readiness across four areas: 1) helping the community support kindergarten readiness, 2) helping child-serving organizations and schools support children in the context of their families, 3) helping families acquire the skills needed to support their children’s school readiness, which together allow 4) the child to be ready for school at kindergarten. Over this past year, the team has helped to accomplish the following:

- 1,159 3-year-olds were enrolled in Expanded Pre-K (EPK) and an additional 143 3-year-olds were enrolled in Head Start for a total of 1,302 out of a birth cohort of 3,100, or 37% served.
- 2,089 4-year-olds were enrolled in Universal Pre-K (UPK) and an additional 218 4-year-olds were enrolled in Head Start for a total of 2,307 out of 3,100, or 74% served.
- 55% of UPK students at the end of June were kindergarten ready; 60% were ready if they experienced Pre-K for two years, 65% for 3 years, and 80% if they were in kindergarten.
- GROW-Rochester, the Rochester City School District, and Head Start performed comprehensive screening and referral services for vision, hearing, speech and language, dental, social and emotional, cognitive, fine and gross motor, and physical development for 1,300 3-year-olds.

SummerLeap provided 6 weeks of 6-hour daily programming for 3 and 4-year-olds, and by mid-August, 64% of 4-year-olds were ready for kindergarten. SummerLeap significantly improves kindergarten readiness for 4-year-olds that participate, but only 4.5% of 3-year-olds and 7.7% of 4-year-olds were served over the summer.

Initiated and supported the completion of a report from The Children’s Agenda, “Valuing Early Childhood Developmental Services: Reimbursement Challenges for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Services in Monroe County,” documenting the shortage of professionals serving young children and the inadequate reimbursement rates set by Monroe County and NY State. The team also initiated efforts to get Speech Language Pathologist Assistants credentialed in NY to help address the high unfilled need for speech and language services among our Pre-K children.

SUPPORTING PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Supporting parents as their child’s first teacher and development specialist is as important as working with the child.

- The School Readiness Outcome Team implemented the Rochester Area Parent Program (RAPP), training 20 group leaders who supported 60 families with 12 weeks of intensive experiences.
- The Perinatal CAN continued its focus on improving preconception health and supports for mothers, through preg- nancy and the first two years of babies’ lives; reducing trauma, and promoting neurodevelopment so that children are Pre-K ready, as well as engaging fathers in effective parenting.
- The Parent Engagement CAN expanded its “Parent Orientation Project” to reduce chronic absence in Pre-K Head Start programs, as well as increase the number of families using the Ready Rose video-modeling mobile app, to share important information about child development.

DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK • HIGH QUALITY PRE-K & CHILDCARE • ENGAGING PARENTS & FAMILIES
GOAL 2

EVERY CHILD IS SUPPORTED
EVERY CHILD IS... SUPPORTED

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  HIGH QUALITY SUMMER LEARNING  DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK

EARLY GRADE LITERACY OUTCOME TEAM

Rochester City School District (RCSD) 3rd grade performance on the NYSED Standardized Assessment improved from 6% to 10% between 2015-2017. The just released scores of the 3rd Grade NYS ELA for Rochester is 17%, which is based on a different assessment, and so cannot be counted as an improvement over previous years. And even though it is an improvement, it is the lowest of NYS big cities.

Early Grade Literacy is an important cradle-to-career outcome which impacts the future economic well-being of our community. This summer, the Early Grade Literacy Outcome Team (EGLOT) was launched under our new Outcomes Framework, and so cannot be counted as an improvement over previous years. And even though it is an improvement, it is the lowest of NYS big cities.

Academic progress during the school year is supported by summer and other extended learning opportunities, without which students lose ground over the years. This is especially difficult when students also face high levels of stress, violence, and trauma due in part to the high level and concentration of poverty in their neighborhoods. Providing high-quality summer and extended learning opportunities ensures youth receive an appropriate balance of social-emotional, academic, and health and wellness supports to succeed in school and in life.

The Expanded Learning Opportunities CAN provides access to quality training and staff development to summer and out of school time programs that contribute to a range of positive outcomes for young people, including improved personal and social skills, better attendance in school, fewer discipline problems, and improved academic achievement.

RCSD’s “Every Minute Matters” campaign, developed by the RCSD’s School Attendance CAN, supports activities that help to reduce chronic absence rates (defined as missing 10% or more of school days). These efforts include monthly attendance blitzes and in-school activities to promote school attendance at targeted schools, Pre-K to High School, as well as the “Cold Can’t Stop Us” campaign from December to March, to reduce the impact of winter on student attendance.

and best fit of children, youth and their families. They explore elements of high quality summer learning programs and models across the country. From that work, evidence-based guiding principles and elements for summer program opportunities were developed for the Greater Rochester area. These elements and principles can be incorporated into the diverse summer programs in our community.

In order for children to be on grade level at 3rd grade, we must also support their developmental needs from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Aligning and reinforcing our work across Outcome Teams is what makes ROC the Future different.

- The Developmentally On Track work group of the School Readiness Outcome Team supports more developmentally appropriate education for kindergarten children, which includes more extensive use of educational play. A pilot program for incorporating more play in kindergarten, which will also support early grade literacy, has been recommended. Fundraising to support the effort is ongoing.
- The Workforce Development and the Developmentally On Track Strategy Teams, as well as most members of the full School Readiness Outcome Team, contributed important recommendations that were adopted by last year’s NY State First 1000 Days on Medicaid initiative and the Regents Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee for children ages 0 to 8.

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EVALUATION ELEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Expanded Learning Opportunity CAN Summer Learning Sub-committee recognizes the diversity of interests, needs, and best fit of children, youth and their families. They explored elements of high quality summer learning programs and models across the country. From that work, evidence-based guiding principles and elements for summer program opportunities were developed for the Greater Rochester area. These elements and principles can be incorpo-
EVERY CHILD IS SUCCESSFUL

GOAL 3

EVERY CHILD IS SUCCESSFUL
Student success is the core objective of all the strategies implemented as a part of ROC the Future. To promote student success, educators, families, service providers, and the community must focus on each student gaining the necessary skills and knowledge at each transition point to be successful at the next level. High school graduation is associated with higher earnings, college attendance and graduation, and other measures of personal and social welfare. Educational attainment has been shown to predict health, marital outcomes and crime. Increasing the educational attainment of one generation improves the next generation’s academic and social outcomes.

The High School Graduation Outcome Team launched this January under our new Outcomes Framework, and completed a deep dive into the research to better understand the factors tied to on-time high school graduation, and what stopped some students from reaching this critical benchmark. Our newly established Data Advisory Team reviewed empirical research, and reported back to the team on what needs to happen to get the right amount of credits and don’t fall behind. In fact, studies show that students who do not get the right number of credits in the 9th grade year are less likely to graduate on time with their 9th grade cohort.

The High School Graduation Outcome Team co-chaired by Dr. Cecilia Griffin-Golden, RCSD Deputy Superintendent, Rosemary Rivera, Director, Citizen Action NY, and Hank Rubin, former VP of Community Programs at RACF. They will be working with two high schools, Edison Technical and Wilson commencement (selected through a proposal process), to develop actions and interventions that support students in their 9th grade year as a strategy to improve graduation rates. Each school will develop a core strategy team that includes teachers, administrators, students, parents/family members and community stakeholders, and will identify and implement interventions that support school climate, culturally relevant curriculum, holistic family services and career & technical education to enhance the 9th grade experience for students.

What’s more, middle grade math is an important milestone for high school persistence, academic achievement, college attainment and general preparedness for the workforce. Research indicates that students who successfully master math by the 8th grade perform better in Geometry, more advanced Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus, which is a strong predictor of college enrollment. RCSD academic support includes expanded implementation of the Naviance Career Exploration and Counseling in middle school, and increased opportunities for 8th graders to take 9th Grade Regents Algebra and 9th Grade Earth Science, enabling them to earn Regents credits early, helping to ensure on-time high school graduation. This year, we introduce a new measure in this report, a combination of 8th graders who have passed the NYS 8th Grade Math Assessment, as well as those who have passed 9th Grade Regents Algebra, which gives a better representation of 8th grade math proficiency levels in RCSD.
EVERY CHILD IS COLLEGE & CAREER READY
Financial self-sufficiency in the 21st century global economy demands education beyond high school, whether it is a two- or four-year college degree or a technical certification. Students, families, and teachers must have access to college and career information and support, and financial barriers must be addressed. There are many individual and community benefits of post-secondary education, including: increased income, workforce development, and health and well-being.

**POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT**
Post-secondary enrollment marks a critical transition in the cradle-to-career pipeline. As more careers require technical knowledge, it’s critical to ensure access to options and financial aid information for four-year universities, two-year programs and technical certifications.

**POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION**
Post-secondary degrees are more valuable than ever. Workers with at least a Bachelor’s degree can earn more than individuals with only a high school diploma. College attainment is also linked to improved health and social outcomes, and society benefits from a more educated population and more community involvement.

Higher education is one of the clearest pathways out of poverty. But low-income students are less likely than middle- and high-income peers to know about college opportunities and how to pay for them. That’s why the Rochester College Access Network (RCAN) works to increase the number of Rochester students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and encourages them to go to college. This year, RCAN received $40,000 as one of 25 recipients nationwide to participate in the FAFSA Challenge. The goal of the FAFSA Challenge is to raise application completion rates by 5%, based on the number of students who are “on track to graduate.” Communities that exceed the rate are eligible to receive a $100K grant. Communities that exceed the rate are eligible to receive a $100K grant. The 2017-18 submission rate was 38% (35% RCSD, 55% Charter) compared to 40% (39% RCSD, 49% Charter) in 2016-17. Data collection and tracking is critical for this grant, and a data sharing agreement between NYS Education Department and RCSD will show counselors the status of their students in the FAFSA process. The FAFSA Challenge helps to move communities to being more “student-centered” as well as to better engage with parents and families.

In addition to their FAFSA initiative, the RCAN strategic plan also supports 10th grade college visits, and the 9th grade “College Connect” program offering valuable college information provided by college students to 9th graders in an informal setting. The group also maintains the RochesterCAN.org regional college website, with a valuable college calendar and information on paying for college and other topics including special opportunities for Rochester students.

**EVERY CHILD IS...**

**COLLEGE & CAREER READY**

**FAFSA EARLY SUBMISSIONS BY END OF MARCH**

**College Enrollment: % of students enrolled in college at any time during the first year after high school graduation**

**College Completion: % of high school graduates who completed a degree within six years**

The National Student Clearinghouse database tracks and reports on college enrollment and completion outcomes for more than 95% of post-secondary institutions, and is an important tool to help Rochester assess how we’re doing. Our most recent analysis of college outcomes shows reductions in college enrollment, college persistence and college completion for RCSD students. Deliberate and targeted efforts to increase the number of high school graduates going to college or entering post-secondary training is essential for an improved and educated workforce.
KEY PARTNERSHIPS

ROC the Future engages more than 100 organizations and individuals to work together collectively to improve academic outcomes for students. In addition to our collective work on our common goals, we work collaboratively with several efforts and other collective impact networks to advance our common agenda of success for all children, cradle-to-career, including:

**ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT/COMMUNITY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TABLE:**
Without a doubt, one of our most strategic partnerships in making things work for children is the Rochester City School District. This year, RCSD is partnering with ROC the Future to help in leading the work to lift and expand community schools in Rochester. ROC the Future will serve as the Community Leadership Table (CLT) for community schools, and will work with RCSD on their goals to bring consistency and alignment to the multiple school sites (now 10), and develop a plan of action to support adding more schools.

**ROCHESTER MONROE ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVE:**
Poverty has a devastating impact on the educational achievement of children, and research shows that early educational failure is closely aligned to poverty in adulthood. This alone is a compelling argument for a formal alignment between RMAPI and ROC the Future. This continued alignment includes endorsement of early childhood supports funded through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI), launching of a data dashboard system—Clear Impact—to support project management within ROC the Future, and partnering to support the operation of the Community Advisory Council.

**ALL KIDS THRIVE:**
All Kids Thrive is Rochester’s Model for Early Childhood Supports, and aims to improve child outcomes and well-being by creating a more child and family centered, integrated, and robust system of supports for children from birth to age eight. This ambitious vision for early childhood includes many programmatic improvements, such as a community-wide nurse home visiting program that offers at least one home visit to every newborn in a community, regardless of income or socioeconomic status, and an expansion of the GROW Project to serve children of many ages, all aligned with one another to maximally benefit young children.

**COMMUNITY SCORECARD:**
The Community Scorecard will measure the well-being of individuals and the community, focusing on income, health and education for the City of Rochester, Monroe County, and Monroe County without the City. This scorecard will prioritize major measures of community outcomes (also known as “lag” indicators), monitor annual progress against three-year targets, and align with local collective impact initiatives to call our community to action leveraging efforts and resources in our community. ROC the Future is the “Education Champion” on the Community Scorecard.

LEADERSHIP/CONVENERS

Action for a Better Community, Inc.  
Center for Governmental Research*  
Children’s Institute*  
City of Rochester ‡ §  
Common Ground Health  
Community Advisory Council  
East High School / Univ. of Rochester  
ESL Charitable Foundation †  
Farash Foundation †  
Great Schools for All  
Greater Roch. Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Rochester Health Foundation †  
Greater Rochester Quality Council*  
Healthy Baby Network §  
Ibero American Action League  
JPMorgan Chase  
Monroe Community College  

Thank You to our funders

With your support, ROC the Future is helping to build the capacity of our community, so that we can focus on children’s success, TOGETHER.
OUTCOME TEAMS AND CAN MEMBERSHIPS

SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOME TEAM
LEAD: Children’s Institute, Nazareth College

EARLY GRADE READING OUTCOME TEAM
LEAD: Rochester City School District and Rochester Public Library
Membership: Rochester City School District, City of Rochester, Common Ground Health, Rochester Public Library, Greater Rochester Quality Council, Children’s Institute, Action for a Better Community, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, The Children’s Agenda, Nazareth College, Common Ground Health, Boys & Girls Club, Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association, Center for Governmental Research, Greater Rochester After School Alliance

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OUTCOME TEAM
LEAD: Rochester City School District and Citizen Action NY

PERINATAL COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: Healthy Baby Network
Membership: Baby Love, Child Care Council, Coordinated Care Services, Inc., Eastman Dental, Excelsior Blue Cross Blue Shield, Family Care, Finger Lakes Children’s Enviro Health Center, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Healthy Baby Network, Highland Family Medicine, Hillside - Parents as Teachers, Jordan Health, March of Dimes, Metro Council for Teen Potential, Baden Street, Monroe County WIC, Monroe County Dept. of Health, Committee on Student Health, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Greater Rochester Quality Council, Healthy Baby Network, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Monroe County Dept. of Health & Human Services, Parent Leadership Training Institute, Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, Rochester City School District, Rochester Childfirst Network, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Rochester Public Library, The Children’s Agenda, University of Rochester, WIXX, NYS Senator Robach’s office

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: Greater Rochester After School Alliance
Membership: Rochester City School District, Unite Way, Children’s Institute, Monroe County Youth Bureau, Wilson Foundation, City of Rochester, Girl Scouts, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Horizons @ Warner, Community Place of Greater Rochester, Boys & Girls Club, Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association, Monroe County Library Association, Cameroon Community Ministries, RochesterWorks! Youth Services Services

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: Rochester City School District
Membership includes committed volunteers who regularly participate in monthly attendance blazes, as well as representatives from the following organizations: Coursewave Community Partners, Coordinated Care Services, Inc., Hillside Children’s Center, Ibero American Action League, Monroe County Department of Probation, Rochester AmeriCorps, WDWK radio station

PARENT ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: ROC the Future; Head Start; University of Rochester, Department of Pediatrics

ROCHESTER COLLEGE ACCESS COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: Rochester Education Foundation
Membership includes committed volunteers as well as representatives from the following organizations: Bryant and Stratton College, Hilside Work-Scholarship Connection, Horizons-Cognitive Mapping, J College Admission Advising, Monroe Community College, Monroe Council for Teen Potential, National Council of Jewish Women, Nazareth College, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Rochester City School District, Rochester Education Foundation, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, SUNY Brockport and ROC, SUNY Geneseo, United Way of Greater Rochester, University of Rochester, Urban League of Rochester, and Young Women’s College Prep

WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

IDEAS FOR GETTING INVOLVED

Non-Profit Leaders

Invite: ROC the Future to present to your professional associations, boards, staff and colleagues.
Join: a ROC the Future work group to offer your expertise.
Perinatal: contact sherita@healthy-baby.net
School Readiness: contact dighietower@childrensinstitute.net, lhiley1@naz.edu
School Attendance: contact rhonda.kirkland@rcsdk12.org.
Employ: youth in internships, letting them shadow your work, or provide them with a summer job.
Donate: to ROC the Future at www.raw.org/ROCtheFuture

Parents and Guardians

Every Minute Matters: make sure your child attends school every day.
Read: nightly to and with your children. If your child is ages 0-5, register for the free Read2Brose phone app for age-appropriate videos and tips to help your child learn from you.
Team Up: with your child’s teacher, and attend parentteacher conferences and school-based activities.
Monitor: your child’s progress by logging into the parent portal at www.rcsdk12.org.
Check-ups: for all appropriate eye, ear, dental and other screenings as well as immunizations. Get information on screenings from the GROW-Rochester program. Support healthy habits such as good nutrition, physical activity and reduced screen time.
Share: ROC the Future info with family members and friends.

Business Leaders

Provide Backbone Support: Data and Quality improvement support is needed for Outcome and Strategy teams. Contact Jackie Campbell at jackie@thechildrensagenda.org.
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COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Mentor: a young person and seek volunteer opportunities at local schools.
Attend: school sponsored events.
Meet: the children in your neighborhood and build mutually trusting, respectful relationships.
Share: information about ROC the Future with your organization or professional association.
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