



Rochester CUSD #3A

4 Rocket Drive Rochester, Illinois 62563-9282, United States

Superintendent's Report

To: Board of Education

From: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent of Schools

Date: August 21, 2024

Gratitudes and Celebrations



We begin each year at Rochester Schools by celebrating and expressing gratitude for outstanding educators and staff members. Along with recognizing our long-standing employees for their years of service, we welcome our new staff as members of the Rockets family. This year we welcome more than 20 new staff members. The significant milestones of service include two staff members who have been in the district for 30-years, two for 25-years, four for 20-years, seven for 15-years, three for 10-years, and 19 for five years. Each of these milestones is significant and we're happy that they've chosen to be

Rochester Rockets!

Clarification on Purchased Services Expenses in FY25 Budget

Overview: This report provides a detailed explanation of the "Purchased Services" expenses in the FY25 budget, specifically the \$665,000 allocated under the Board of Education Services line item. Additionally, it addresses the \$16,000 listed under the "Other Objects" column.

Purchased Services Expenses: The \$665,000 allocated to Purchased Services covers a broad range of essential services and insurances that the Board of Education requires to operate effectively. The key components of this budget line item include:

- **Insurance Costs:** Over \$481,000 is dedicated to various insurance policies necessary for the district. This includes workers' compensation insurance, liability insurance, property insurance, and other forms of coverage that protect the district from potential risks.



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- **Legal Services:** Approximately \$100,000 is allocated for legal services. These funds cover legal consultations, representation in potential litigation, and other legal needs that arise throughout the fiscal year.
- **Board Publications and Compliance:** The remaining funds are allocated for required board publications, compliance with state and federal regulations, and other necessary services that fall under the Board's purview.

It is important to note that as a Tax Capped (PTELL) district, we have restricted access to a Tort fund (Fund 80 in the budget), which is where many of these expenses would typically be allocated in a non-tax capped district. As a result, these costs are reflected in the Purchased Services line item.

Other Objects (\$16,000): The \$16,000 under "Other Objects" is utilized for various Board-related expenses that do not fall under specific service categories. For example:

- **Meeting Equipment:** When the decision was made to broadcast Board meetings, expenses for necessary equipment such as microphones and any required software were covered by this line item.
- **Miscellaneous Board Expenses:** This may also include other miscellaneous expenses that arise during the fiscal year, which are essential for the Board's operations but do not fit neatly into other budget categories.

Conclusion: The Purchased Services expenses are critical to ensuring that the Board of Education can fulfill its responsibilities effectively and maintain compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements. The allocation in the "Other Objects" category provides flexibility for unforeseen expenses that support the Board's operations.

District Spotlight





At Rochester Schools, student learning outcomes remain our top priority, with a specific focus on student literacy in this report. Our primary goal is to meet students where they are and facilitate their growth from that point forward. Student growth is the most significant indicator of positive learning outcomes, recognizing that not all students learn in the same way or at the same pace.



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This report highlights student growth as assessed by the ECRA Group, categorized as follows:

 Higher than Expected Growth Growth is +0.30 or above	 Expected Growth Growth from -0.29 to +0.29	 Lower than Expected Growth Growth from -0.30 to -0.59	 Unsatisfactory Growth Growth is -0.60 or below
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Overall Student Growth by District:

The overall student growth across the District meets expectations. Notably, all subgroups are progressing as expected, which is a significant achievement. A particular highlight is the higher-than-expected growth at Rochester Elementary EC-1. These positive outcomes are directly attributed to the District's strategic investments and curriculum improvements over the past four years.

Key factors contributing to these successes include:

- Lowering class sizes
- Attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers
- Significant investments in early childhood education, including program expansion
- Enhanced instructional resources
- Focused professional development initiatives

These efforts have been instrumental in fostering the growth and success of our students.



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Student Growth by School

School:	Student Count [^]	% Met Benchmark	% High Growth	% Expected Growth	% Low Growth	Growth Effect Size
ROCHESTER ELEM 2-3	243	50%	19%	63%	17%	+ 0.05
ROCHESTER ELEM EC-1 SCH	249	N/A	29%	59%	12%	+ 0.46
ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL	310	N/A	14%	67%	19%	0.00
ROCHESTER INTERMEDIATE	395	44%	13%	65%	21%	- 0.19
ROCHESTER JR HIGH SCHOOL	279	24%	16%	67%	17%	0.00
ALL	1,476	38%	18%	65%	18%	+ 0.04
EXPECTED			16%	68%	16%	0.00

* Dot color is green for all growth scores that are not statistically significant

**Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

[^] Student count only includes students with at least 1 predictor

***Results not reported for groups with fewer than 5 students

Growth by Student Group

Group	Student Group	Student Count [^]	% Met Benchmark	% High Growth	% Expected Growth	% Low Growth	Growth Effect Size
ELL	ELL	7	20%	14%	71%	14%	- 0.01
ELL	Not ELL	1,459	40%	18%	65%	17%	+ 0.05
Ethnicity	Asian	19	44%	11%	74%	16%	+ 0.05
Ethnicity	Black	30	25%	23%	60%	17%	+ 0.09
Ethnicity	Hispanic	22	38%	18%	55%	27%	- 0.28
Ethnicity	Other	72	44%	21%	54%	25%	- 0.02
Ethnicity	White	1,323	40%	18%	66%	16%	+ 0.05
Gender	Female	723	43%	21%	64%	15%	+ 0.12
Gender	Male	743	38%	16%	66%	19%	- 0.03
Homeless	Not Homeless	1,466	40%	18%	65%	17%	+ 0.04
IEP	IEP	199	13%	19%	55%	26%	- 0.19
IEP	No IEP	1,267	44%	18%	67%	15%	+ 0.08
Income	Low Income	246	34%	17%	60%	22%	- 0.09
Income	Not Low Income	1,220	42%	18%	66%	16%	+ 0.07
EXPECTED				16%	68%	16%	0.00

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Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)

This section highlights the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) results for English Language Arts (ELA) literacy across Grades 3-8 in our District. The data reflects strong performance and growth, with several areas deserving special recognition.





Overall Student Growth:

We are pleased to report that our student subgroups, as assessed by the IAR, have shown higher-than-expected growth overall. This outcome is a significant achievement and a testament to the dedicated efforts of our educators and support staff.

Rochester Elementary 2-3:

Rochester Elementary 2-3 has demonstrated particularly strong performance, with higher-than-expected growth in ELA literacy. While the school has been designated for targeted improvement due to a student subgroup score, the substantial growth seen in the spring assessment indicates that we are on the right trajectory to close any gaps.

Student Growth by School

School:	Student Count ^A	% Met Benchmark	% High Growth	% Expected Growth	% Low Growth	Growth Effect Size
ROCHESTER ELEM 2-3	118	32%	27%	62%	11%	+ 0.39 
ROCHESTER INTERMEDIATE	395	37%	24%	61%	15%	+ 0.21 
ROCHESTER JR HIGH SCHOOL	279	36%	35%	57%	8%	+ 0.57 
ALL	792	36%	28%	60%	12%	+ 0.36 
EXPECTED			16%	68%	16%	0.00

^A Data not to exceed for all growth scores that are not statistically significant

^B Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding



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Growth by Student Group

Group	Student Group	Student Count^	% Met Benchmark	% High Growth	% Expected Growth	% Low Growth	Growth Effect Size
ELL	ELL	6	17%	17%	33%	50%	- 0.46*
ELL	Not ELL	786	42%	36%	53%	11%	+ 0.56
Ethnicity	Asian	10	50%	30%	40%	30%	+ 0.15
Ethnicity	Black	20	35%	45%	55%	0%	+ 0.98
Ethnicity	Hispanic	8	63%	63%	25%	13%	+ 1.12
Ethnicity	Other	45	36%	29%	69%	2%	+ 0.63
Ethnicity	White	709	42%	36%	52%	12%	+ 0.54
Gender	Female	392	46%	40%	51%	9%	+ 0.75
Gender	Male	400	38%	33%	54%	14%	+ 0.36
Homeless	Homeless	1	***	***	***	***	***
Homeless	Not Homeless	791	42%	36%	53%	11%	+ 0.56
IEP	IEP	98	7%	30%	57%	13%	+ 0.39
IEP	No IEP	694	47%	37%	52%	11%	+ 0.58
Income	Low Income	133	30%	38%	46%	16%	+ 0.50
Income	Not Low Income	659	44%	36%	54%	10%	+ 0.56
EXPECTED				16%	68%	16%	0.00



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Rochester Junior High:

Rochester Junior High has also demonstrated higher-than-expected growth in ELA literacy, reflecting the school's ongoing commitment to instructional excellence and the effective implementation of our literacy programs. Four years ago, RJHS was identified as needing targeted supports, similar to Rochester Elementary 2-3. In response, Mrs. Poole and her team implemented several key initiatives, including the "Leader In Me" program, which the Board was introduced to during their presentation at the last meeting. The results of these efforts have been truly outstanding.

Conclusion:

The higher-than-expected growth observed across student subgroups, particularly at Rochester Elementary 2-3 and Rochester Junior High, is cause for celebration. These results underscore the effectiveness of our strategies and the positive impact of our continuous efforts to support student achievement in literacy.

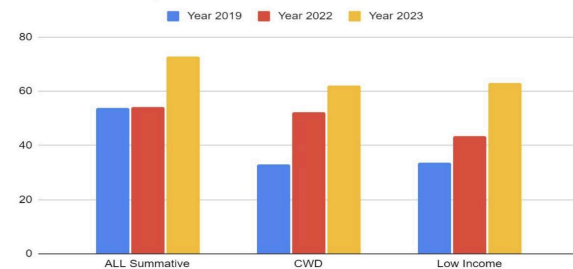
We will continue to build on this momentum, ensuring that all students have the opportunities and resources they need to succeed.

IL Assessment of Readiness - Trend Data 2021 - Present ELA Class of 2028; Math Class of 2029

Grade when tested	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7
	Class of 2028 ELA 2021	Class of 2028 ELA 2022	Class of 2028 2023	Class of 2028 2024	Class of 2029 Math 2021	Class of 2029 Math 2022	Class of 2029 Math 2023	Class of 2029 Math 2024
Did not Meet	15.7	10.8	11.6	7.2	20.7	8.8	10.5	1.5
Approached	35.9	39.9	21.3	21.7	26.4	25.7	30.1	43.4
Partially Met	30.1	36.1	29	11.8	32.2	40.4	35	26.5
Met	18.3	13.3	31.6	55.3	20.7	24.3	23.1	26.5
Exceeded	0	0	6.5	3.9	0	0.7	1.4	2.2

IL Assessment of Readiness - Trend Data 2019 - 2023 Closing the Gap

ALL Summative, CWD and Low Income





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Early Childhood Investment and Impact

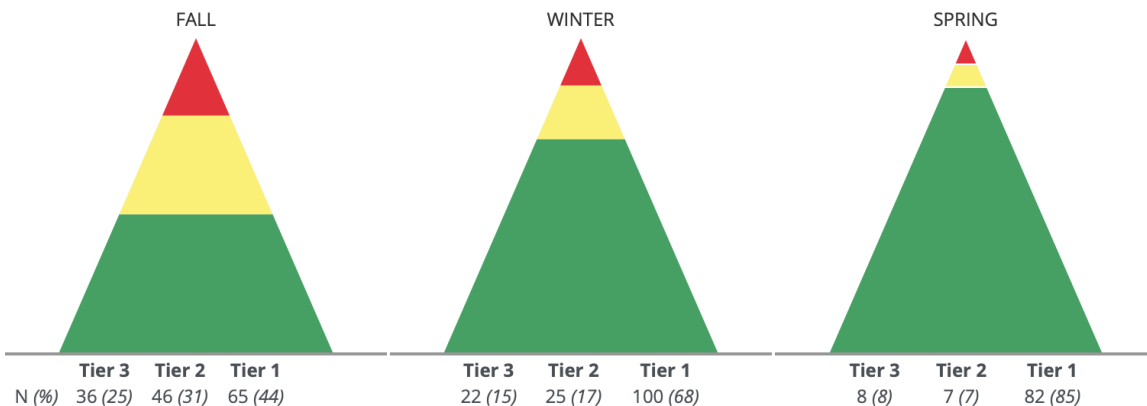
The Rochester CUSD #3A Board of Education has made a substantial investment in early childhood education, and we are now seeing the significant benefits of these efforts. Key initiatives include reducing class sizes through the addition of sections, expanding Pre-K programs, adding instructional coaches, launching Blast Off Kids Academy, and increasing staff, such as social workers and psychologists.

Our Pre-K programs lay the groundwork for our youngest learners, while our Kindergarten program serves as the foundation for their future academic success. The results of these investments are evident in the recent AIMSweb data, which shows a significant reduction in the number of students requiring intensive Tier III interventions.

The same dedicated teachers who achieved these outstanding results last year have returned this year, ensuring that our students are well-prepared as they transition from Kindergarten to the next stages of their educational journeys.

Our Kindergarten program is truly exceptional, and we are confident that our students leave Kindergarten equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for continued success.

Tier Transition Summary





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Positive Launch

During the District's commencement ceremony for back to school we were made aware of a special connection between Mrs. Probst and one of our recent hires. Jacob Patton joined the district as a special education aid. When we hired him we found out that Mrs. Probst was Mr. Patton's kindergarten teacher. This was a powerful full-circle moment to witness and demonstrates why we all chose education, to make a lasting positive impact on the next generation.



It's a great day to be a Rocket!!! 🚀

"A Tradition of Excellence!"