



American Rescue Plan

Reinvesting... Rebuilding... Reimagining...

An Unprecedented Opportunity

As part of the federal government's American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, school districts across the country will receive additional funding to support student need in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rochester City School District will receive an allocation of almost \$197 million to invest in our students' education over the next three years. This is a once in a generation infusion of funds that gives us the opportunity to truly reimagine education in our district.

As part of a process of comprehensive planning and stakeholder engagement, the RCSD will use of ARP funds to support the District's strategic priorities and recommendations made by the Independent Monitor in 5 key areas:



Culturally Responsive and Informed

The RCSD is an actively anti-racist organization focused on providing students with affirming learning experiences where diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the center of decision-making.



High-Quality Learning Experiences

Every student has access to and engages with grade-level content and high-quality instructional materials daily.



Diverse Programming

Each school offers dynamic, innovative, and engaging programs and pathways where all students can find their voice and cultivate their respective passion.



Expanded Learning

The RCSD provides robust expanded learning opportunities for all students that challenge them to engage in real-world application of their learning.



High-Quality Staff

The RCSD ensures that staff members have the desire, belief, knowledge, and skills to provide high-quality learning experiences to students every day.

Listening to Community Needs



Planning to use these funds has commenced in collaboration with District students, staff, families, and community members. To gather feedback and input, the RCSD created multiple opportunities for all stakeholders to engage with District staff and share their ideas and needs. Careful consideration of community priorities are being taken into account as the District creates a plan to move forward.

As a result of these engagement efforts, the District received hundreds of suggestions from students, families, staff, and community members about how to prioritize planning for the use of ARP funding. In analyzing the feedback offered by District stakeholders, it was exciting to find that community priorities mirror the priorities of the District.

Planning for Student Success



The following is a **preliminary** outline of programs and initiatives the District is planning to prioritize with ARP funds. A more comprehensive summary of community feedback and proposed district expenditures will be forthcoming in alignment with the ARP application guidelines which will be put forth by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) upon release of the ARP application. As per NYSED, additional conditions may be placed upon the RCSD's use of stimulus funding.

NYSED Guidance on Development of ARP Plan:

[May 17, 2021](#)

[May 19, 2021](#)

Supporting ALL Students (~\$128M)

High-Quality Teaching and Learning for All (~\$69M)

To address pre and post-pandemic unfinished learning and build lasting, equitable systems of teaching and learning, this funding will support programs and initiatives such as:

- ✓ Social Emotional Learning
- ✓ Culturally Responsive Curriculum and Instruction
- ✓ High School Redesign
- ✓ Restorative Practices
- ✓ Summer School and Expanded Learning
- ✓ Recruiting Diverse Staff
- ✓ Work-Based Learning and Career Pathways
- ✓ Academic Support & Enrichment
- ✓ Parent & Family Engagement

Special Education Needs (~\$27M)

ARP funding will be invaluable in bringing the Special Education Department Services into full compliance in alignment with the District's consent decree. Key programs and initiatives include:

- ✓ Innovative Teaching Models
- ✓ Increased Access to Diverse Programming
- ✓ Expansion of Enrichment Opportunities
- ✓ Expansion of Work-Based Learning Opportunities
- ✓ Specialized Instructional Materials
- ✓ Enhanced Life Skills Programming

English Language Learner Support (~\$20M)

The RCSD will leverage ARP funds to meet the goals outlined in NYSED's Correction Action Plan for the District's English Language Learner services. This will support programs and initiatives such as:

- ✓ Establishment of New Parent Welcome Center
- ✓ Expansion of Seal of Bi-literacy
- ✓ Multilingual Parent University
- ✓ Career Pathway to Support Development of Linguistically Diverse Staff
- ✓ Increased Partnerships with Diverse Community Agencies

Additional Targeted Support for Persistently Struggling Schools (~\$9M)

Funding set aside to provide additional, more intensive, specialized supports to schools designated as in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or which are in Receivership.

Participatory Budgeting (~\$2.5M)

Student/family/community voices will be lifted to make decisions about how to best use funding in their school. Each school building will be provided funding to engage students and community members in a participatory budgeting process.

District-Wide Infrastructure Improvements (~\$49M)

Funding will be used to safely reopen schools for all students and provide up-to-date facilities and technology to support students and families.

School-Based Needs Allocations (~\$20M)

Each District school and program will be provided with a building-based allocation to plan for, and meet, the unique needs of their student population.

