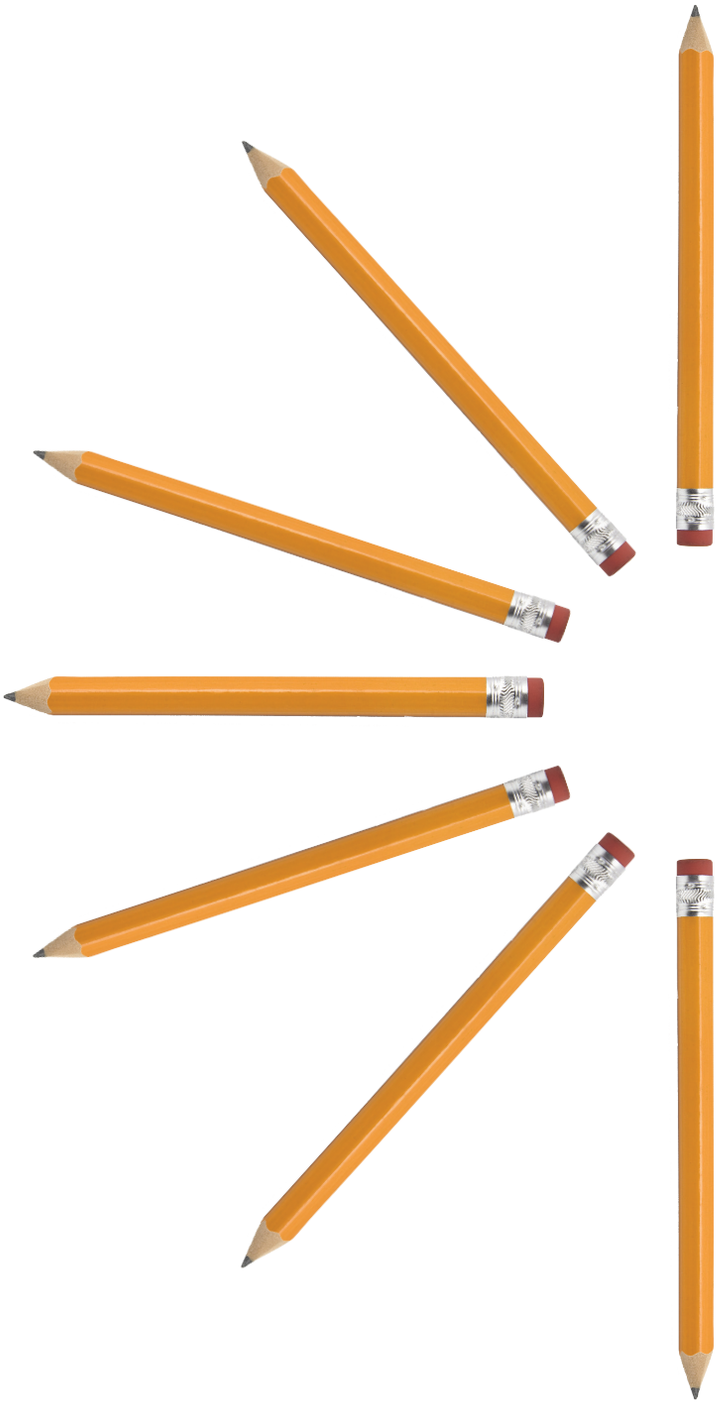
2015



State of Our Children and Report Card Release

ROC THE FUTURE
inspire
inform
improve

Embargoed and confidential until 9:30 am on October 16

Goal:
Every Child is School Ready

inspire

Goal:
Every Child is Supported

inform

Goal:
Every Child is Successful

improve

Goal:
Every Child is College and Career Ready

ready for the future

	2013 Report Card	2014 Report Card	2015 Report Card	
Early Prenatal Care	68%	69% (2,049 in 2012)	72% (2,241 in 2013)	⊕
Enrolled in Pre-K	75%	75% (2,418 in 2012)	95% (2,776 in 2014)	⊕
Ready for School	NA	66% (1,211 in 2014)	64% (947 in 2015)	⊜
Chronically Absent Average Daily Attendance in 2013: Elementary – 92% Secondary – 82%	K-3 Target K-3 K-12	47% 37% 38%	37% 30% 35%	⊕
English in 3rd Grade	6%	5% (119 in 2014)	7% (138 in 2015)	⊜
Math in 4th Grade	6%	12% (251 in 2014)	9% (160 in 2015)	⊖
English in 8th Grade	6%	6% (130 in 2014)	4% (55 in 2015)	⊜
Math in 8th Grade	4%	8% (26 in 2014)	1% (9 in 2015)	⊖
High School Graduates	49%	48% (1,155 in 2013)	51% (1,047 in 2014)	⊕
College and Career Ready	36%	23% (75 in 2013)	18% (74 in 2014)	⊖

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ROC the Future 2015 Report Card

We must maintain our focus on achieving grade-level reading by 3rd grade.

This report card tracks key measures of well-being for children and youth in the City of Rochester, from cradle to career.

Since 2011, ROC the Future has been building a community-wide alliance to align efforts and resources to improve academic achievement for Rochester's children. ROC the Future's most significant accomplishments to date – developmental screenings and quality preschool education for 3-year-olds, along with improving K-3 attendance – may take years to be reflected in improved academic performance. We must maintain our focus on achieving grade-level reading by 3rd grade, which enables students to read to learn in later grades, and sets them up for academic and lifelong success.

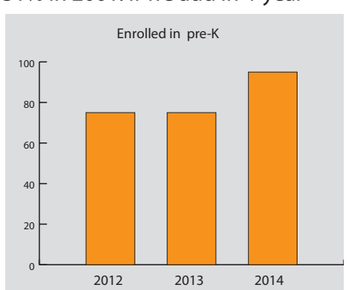
Rochester's child poverty rate has grown from 38% in 2000 to 55% in 2013 based on annual census data; 8 out of 10 elementary school students in Rochester city schools qualify for free or reduced price lunch. The data show that the student poverty rate in Rochester – as well as all the other Monroe County school districts – is closely correlated with standardized test scores. Poverty is not an excuse for failing to educate children – exceptional children and schools, including charters, can succeed despite the odds of high poverty rates. But that success is still despite the odds for most students stuck in concentrated poverty.

The Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative, formed in 2014, has recently announced a goal of reducing poverty by 50% by 2030. Aligning our community's supports to address the needs of children impacted by poverty, and reducing the rate overall, is critically important. As a community, we must hold ourselves accountable for results. We expect no less of our children. We need to raise expectations for our community's adults.

Goal: Every Child is School Ready

Children's road to success begins before they are born, with healthy choices by their parents. One of those is accessing early prenatal care (in the first trimester of pregnancy). In Rochester in 2013, 72% of births were to women who received early prenatal care, up from 63% in 2000, though still below the region-wide figure of 78%.

The preschool years are critical to healthy child development. Enrollment in a quality pre-kindergarten program can make a big difference in children's readiness for school. In 2014, 67% of Rochester's 4-year-olds were enrolled in publicly funded pre-K, the highest level in the region and up from 31% in 2001. If we add in 4-year-olds attending the federally funded Head Start program, the participation rate exceeds 95%.



Assessments of Rochester's pre-K classrooms consistently rank the programs as high quality. By the end of their pre-K year, 64% of pre-K students were considered ready for school in 2015, an encouraging benchmark, though it means the remaining 36% were behind in the development of necessary skills.

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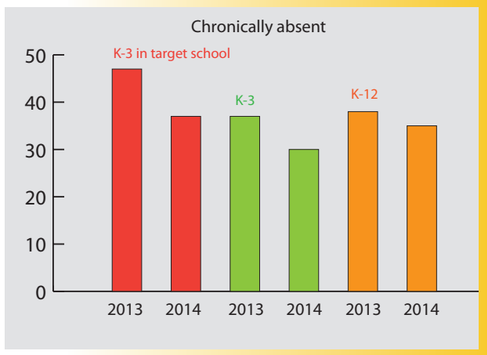
Goal: Every Child is Supported

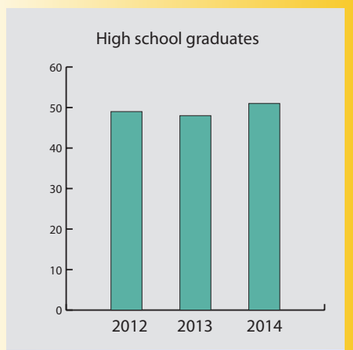
In the early grades, children build the habits and skills needed to move successfully through their school years. One of these is the simple act of attending school. Rochester has put a bright focus on school attendance in recent years, and its efforts are paying off, though chronic absence still remains too high. In 2014-15, 30% of students in kindergarten through 3rd grade missed 10% or more of the school year (18+ days) and so were considered chronically absent. This was a decline from 37% the previous year. More progress was made in target schools, which saw the rate drop from 47% to 37%. Overall K-12, the rate is 35%, down from 38%, due to high chronic absence in the secondary schools.



Goal: Every Child is Successful

Missing school, along with other factors, puts students at high risk of academic failure. The story told by state test results remains disappointing, with 7% of Rochester's 3rd graders meeting state standards on the reading exam, 9% of 4th graders passing math, 4% of 8th graders passing English and less than 1% of 8th graders passing math. It should be noted that some 8th graders do not take the 8th grade state math exam, opting instead to take the Regents Algebra exam; Rochester's overall passing rate on this exam (not just 8th graders) was 41%. Rochester's charter schools had better results; for example, 33% of 3rd graders in charter schools met state standards on the reading test.

Despite the odds against them, 51% of Rochester students who began high school in 2010 graduated within 4 years in 2014. This rate was up slightly from 48% for the previous class. Graduation rates varied by race/ethnicity: 52% among African American students, 43% among Hispanic students and 63% among white students. A fifth year can make a difference for some struggling students; 53% of Rochester's Class of 2013 had graduated by 2014.



Goal: Every Child is College and Career Ready

Unfortunately, even among those who graduate, many are not ready for college academics. Of Rochester graduates who enrolled at Monroe Community College, 27% were considered college-ready in math, 45% in English, and 18% in both subjects.

The progress we have made in some early childhood measures, can give us hope that outcomes for Rochester's children will improve if we continue working.

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ROC the Future's collaborative action networks work to improve report card indicators.

Process Indicators

ROC the Future's collaborative action networks work to improve report card indicators. Since many of our efforts may take years to show results, we also track interim process indicators.

School Readiness Network

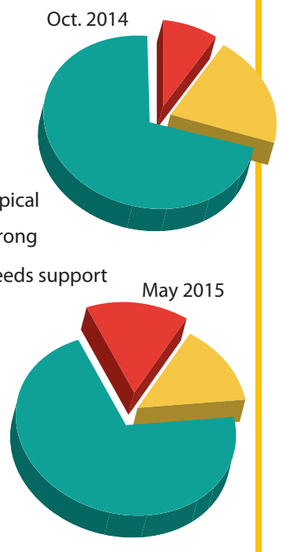
The School Readiness Network is working to ensure more children begin school ready and able. Part of that is expanding summer programs for students entering kindergarten. In 2015, 275 children participated in programs, up from 48 the year before.

A big focus of the group's work has been increasing screenings among 3-year-olds to find and address challenges in hearing, vision and development. The group has secured $789,000 to expand screenings. As a result, GROW Rochester will screen 400 additional 3-year-olds in 2015-16, followed by 800 in 2016-17, and 1,200 in 2017-18.

In addition, the network supported the Rochester school district's application for state funding to extend pre-K to more 3-year-olds. Rochester received by far the highest grant awarded in the state: nearly $12 million of $30 million awarded. This will allow the district to serve up to 1,000 more 3-year-olds in community and school-based settings beginning in January 2016.

Expanded Learning Network

The Expanded Learning Network is working to ensure that more Rochester students can participate in quality afterschool programs. In 2014-15, one program measured its impact on participating students' social-emotional development, which is a key aspect of development and important to school success. In a pre-test of students early in the school year, 22% of students needed support and 9% had strong skills. After completing the program, 14% needed support and 15% had strong skills.



The network completed an inventory of out-of-school time programming. The inventory indicates after-school programming accommodates approximately 31 percent of Rochester's youth age 6 to 17 whose parents are working.

College Access Network

The College Access Network is working to encourage Rochester students to go to college. Part of this effort is a website helping students navigate the road to college. Users of www.RocheserCAN.org grew from 356 in January 2015, its first month, to 1,316 in June 2015.

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ROC the Future

ROC the Future is an alliance of over 50 leading Rochester-area institutions and community partners dedicated to ensuring that all children receive the opportunities and support they need to succeed in school and throughout life. ROC the Future promotes community collaboration, alignment, and the focused use of resources to improve the academic achievement of Rochester's children. The first focus of ROC the Future is third-grade literacy, building on the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Campaign for Grade Level Reading, which prioritizes three areas: 1) school readiness, 2) attendance, and 3) expanded learning opportunities.

Convener organizations include:

Action for a Better Community
The Bonadio Group
Center for Governmental Research *
The Children's Agenda *
The Children's Institute *
City of Rochester
Dixon Schwabl
Greater Rochester Quality Council *
Healthy Baby Network
Ibero American Action League
JPMorgan Chase
Monroe Community College
Monroe County
NYS Board of Regents
NYS Delegation
Rochester Area Community Foundation *
Rochester Business Alliance
Rochester City School Board
Rochester City School District
Rochester Education Foundation
SUNY/REOC
The United Way

* Provides backbone staff support

Financial support has been provided by:

Anonymous
The Bonadio Group
The Brighter Days Foundation
ESL Charitable Foundation
Gray Locey CPAs
JPMorgan Chase
KnowledgeWorks Foundation
Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation
MetLife Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation
Monroe Community College (MCC) Foundation
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Samloff
Summit Federal Credit Union
Upstate Bank
United Way of Greater Rochester

ACT Rochester, Center for Governmental Research, Dixon Schwabl, Greater Rochester Quality Council, MCC, The Children's Agenda, The Children's Institute, and all convener organizations have also provided in-kind support.

ROC The Future is part of StriveTogether, a national network of communities supporting the success of every child from cradle to career by focusing on a locally defined common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication and mutually reinforcing activities, and mobilizing resources for backbone functions to increase equity and achieve collective impact.

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Shared Accomplishments

October 2014 to September 2015

ROC the Future is an alliance of over 50 leading Rochester-area institutions and community partners, including the Rochester City School District (RCSD). More than 30 additional partners participate in one or more of our collaborative action networks (workgroups). The following summarizes some of the shared accomplishments of convener and partner organizations working together over the past year.

EVERY MINUTE IN SCHOOL MATTERS
EveryMinuteMattersRCSD.org

- **Reduced chronic absence by 10.7 percentage points** During the 2014-15 school year 442 more K-3 students in 13 target schools attended school at least 90% of the time as a result of three years of collaborative work through RCSD's Attendance Initiative.

- **Comprehensive, integrated developmental screenings for 3-year-olds (GROW Rochester)**
  ROC the Future helped secure $789,000 over 3 years to scale-up and integrate comprehensive vision, hearing, and developmental screenings for 3 year-olds beginning fall 2015.*

- **Expanded evidence-based book distribution**
  All K-11 RCSD students had an opportunity to choose books for summer reading, a practice proven to reduce summer reading loss.

- **Increased summer learning opportunities 25%**
  In summer 2015 RCSD and partners increased enrichment and recovery summer learning opportunities by 25% over 2014 – serving more than 12,500 students.

- **Increased filings of college financial aid forms** Applications by Rochester City School District students for federal student aid rose 9% from March 2014 to March 2015.

* Funders include the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, the United Way, the City of Rochester and Rochester Area Community Foundation.

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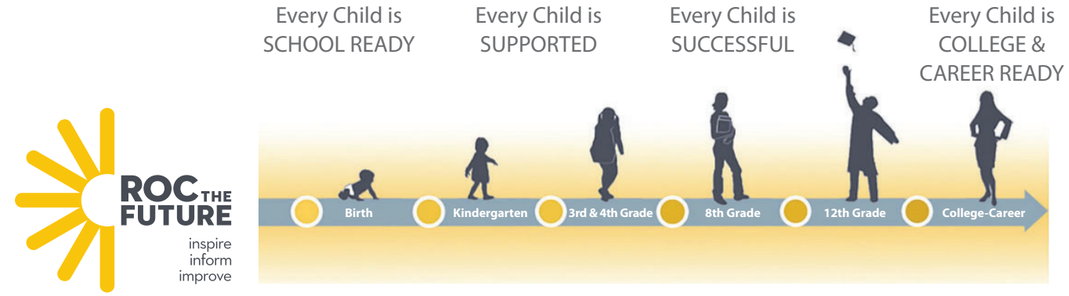

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In addition to these outcomes, we recognize progress by our collaborative action networks on the action plans they have developed to meet our overarching goals. Awareness and alignment are necessary to attract the human capital and financial investments necessary to achieve our goals. Some of these accomplishments are listed below.

Goal: Every Child is School Ready

- **Added Perinatal Collaborative Action Network** affiliated with Healthy Baby Network, which is now developing an action plan to address gaps contributing to low weight births, such as early prenatal care – a major determinant of later child, youth and adult success.
- **Increased professional learning about early childhood** for RCSD teachers, staff, and administrators.

Goal: Every Child is Supported

- 14 out-of-school sites measured the impact of their program on participating K-8 students' social-emotional competency and resilience and identified statistically significant student growth. Over the course of the year, students needing support declined from 22% to 14%.
- **Inventory of out-of-school-time opportunities** The inventory describes recent growth in school based Expanded Learning Time programs, summer learning opportunities, and initiatives to boost the quality of programs. It also documents the continuing gap between need and supply. Research indicates expanding capacity and increasing quality will increase the positive impact of out-of-school-time programming on students academic and social competence..

Goal: Every Child is Successful

This goal relates primarily to 3rd, 4th, and 8th grade New York State English and Math proficiency tests and graduation rates. Detailed information on these indicators, including rates by race and income, are available at http://www.actrochester.org/roc-the-future/every-child-successful.

- The high school graduation rate improved 3 percentage points to 51%.

Goal: Every Child is College and Career Ready

- **College information website sees 1,300 users** Rochester Education Foundation, a ROC the Future member and facilitator of the Rochester College Access Network Collaborative Action Network, developed a website with information on local colleges, financial aid, and college admission counselor contacts. The website had more than 1,300 users in June 2015.
- **Pilot of college visits for 10th graders** Monroe High School sent 46 10th grade students on 65 college visits in preparation for a broader effort to include all 10th graders.
- **Chosen to participate in Clinton Global Initiative to pilot test of college readiness**
  Chosen by SUNY Cradle to Career Initiative to pilot a test of college readiness.

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Increased Community Alignment

- **Unified Advocacy Agenda:** 69 community leaders formally voted to sign on to an ongoing, unified, focused advocacy agenda for children and youth, which calls for:
  1. Increasing the number of parents who receive parenting education through home visitation.
  2. Increasing the number of children who receive high-quality early care and education.
  3. Increasing the number of children who receive high-quality summer learning between their pre-K and kindergarten school years.
  4. Increasing the number of Rochester children who attend high quality after-school programs.
  5. Increasing the high school graduation rate by creating a Career and Technical Education pathway to a NYS Regents diploma.
- **Growing Collective Impact and Leadership:** Based in part on their collective impact experience with ROC the Future, Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle, County Executive Maggie Brooks, Mayor Lovely Warren and the United Way helped develop the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative at the request of Governor Andrew Cuomo. Dr. Leonard Brock moved from Alliance Director of ROC the Future to head up the new Anti-Poverty Initiative, and Jackie Campbell, active in ROC the Future's collaborative action networks in her role with the City Library, has assumed leadership as Alliance Director.

- **Seminar on Social and Emotional Competence: Critical Skills for Success in School and Life, September 2015** Paul LeBuffe of the Devereux Center for Resilient Children outlined for over 170 community members the components of social-emotional learning, their importance in school and life, and research documenting the results of intentionally teaching students these skills. An overview of 213 studies assessing the impact of teaching social-emotional skills to K-12 students identified improvements in classroom behavior and test scores and decreases in conduct problems and emotional distress such as anxiety and depression. This event was organized by Greater Rochester After-School Alliance and co-sponsored by ROC the Future.
- **Leadership Summit in Urban Education, March 2015** Organized by Nazareth College, ROC the Future co-sponsored this event, bringing together more than 225 educators to hear NYS Regents Wade Norwood and Lester Young Jr. and successful urban educators from around New York State.
- **National League of Cities Educational Alignment for Young Children Summit, October 2014** More than 200 early childhood experts and community members from across New York State attended sessions detailing what is being done here and in other communities to advance children's early literacy and overall development. Organized by the City of Rochester and The Children's Agenda, the statewide summit was co-sponsored by ROC the Future.
- **Advocated for increased child care subsidies** The Rochester Business Alliance's Community Coalition and more than 100 religious congregations in The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative advocated for increased child care subsidies in part due to its impact on school readiness.

Local Media Coverage Related to ROC the Future

As a means to the end of increasing awaremess and aligning and focusing our community's efforts, we also note the following news stories:

- Rochester learning to stick with it, *Democrat and Chronicle*, October 2, 2015
- Head of ROC the Future focuses on family, *Democrat and Chronicle*, October 1, 2015
- ROC the Future Appoints Jackie Campbell, Local Youth Development Leader, As New Alliance Director, *Minority Reporter*, August 20, 2015 on-line
- ROC the Future Names Campbell New Alliance Director, *Challenger Community News*, August 19, 2015 and on-line
- Summer Learning Program Expanded, *Democrat and Chronicle*, July 15, 2015
- Combating Summer Learning Loss, WXXI, June 9, 2015
- Progress, Challenges in City School Attendance, *Democrat and Chronicle*, June 2, 2015
- ROC the Future delivers 2014 report card, *Rochester Business Journal,* October, 17, 2014
- ROC the Future sees progress, much to do, *Rochester Business Journal,* October 17, 2014
- ROC the Future is moving forward, *City Newspaper,* October 17, 2014
- Community leaders spotlight - Dr. Leonard M. Brock, GradNation website, October 17, 2014
- RCSD and Partners Kick-off Community-Wide Attendance Campaign, WXXI, September 30, 2014

State and National Recognition for ROC the Future

Moving the Needle on Chronic Absence about the success of Rochester's Attendance Initiative, profiled on StriveTogether's National blog, September 2015.

Rochester profiled in Expanded Learning, Expanded Opportunity: How Four Communities are Working to Improve Education for Their Students, by America's Promise Alliance, July 2015.

Children's Institute director, convener, and School Readiness Network facilitator, Dirk Hightower, participated in panel Lessons Learned at SUNY Cradle to Career Convening in New York City, June 2015.

ROC the Future met a more advanced national benchmark for local affiliates of the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network, May 2015.
http://www.strivetogether.org/sites/default/files/StriveTogether_Network_Profile_Web_Sept_2015.pdf

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For more information on ROC the Future see our website:
rocthefuture.org

For a digital copy of the report card and information on all the ROC the Future indicators go to:
www.actrochester.org/roc-the-future

To contribute to ROC the Future go to:
racf.org/ROCtheFuture

To arrange a presentation about ROC the Future for your organization contact:
Jackie Campbell, Alliance Director
jackie@thechildrensagenda.org
OR 256-2620 x2604
Linda Phillips, Communications Specialist
linda@thechildrensagenda.org

To join one of our Collaborative Action Networks contact the Network facilitator

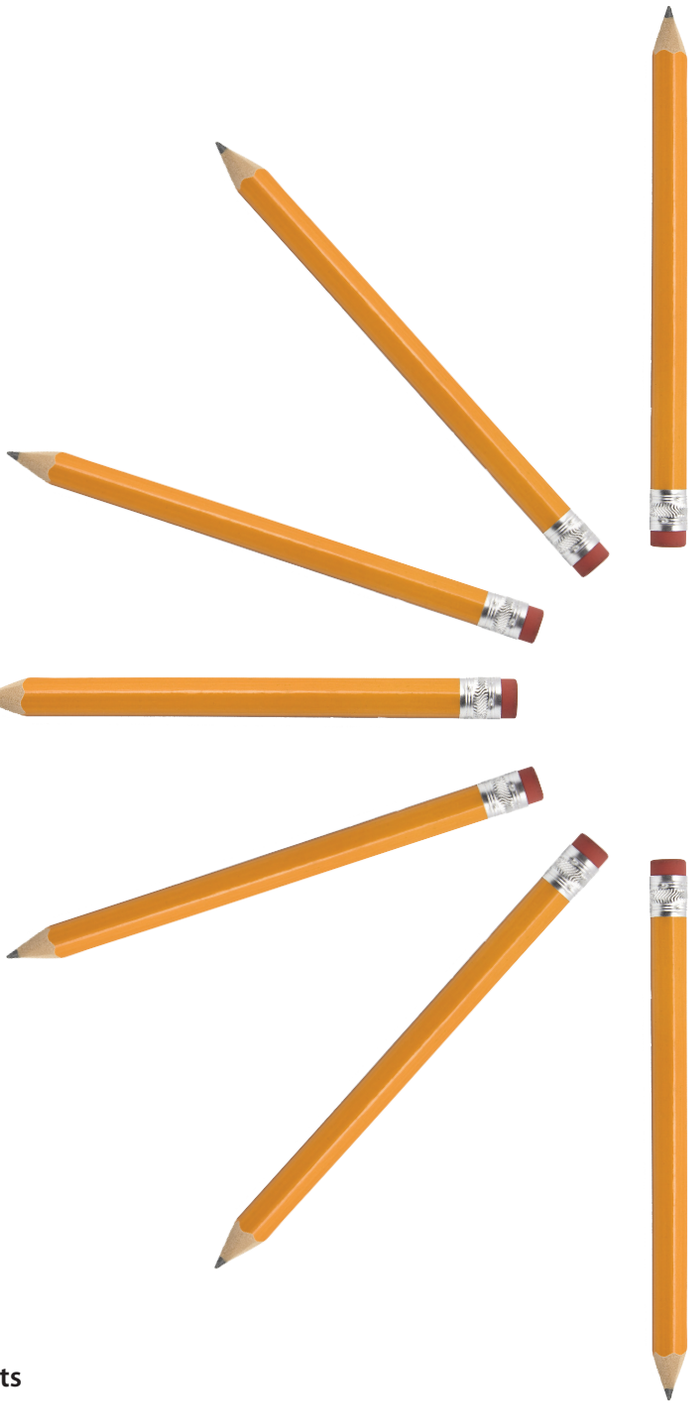
Perinatal Action Network – Sherita Bullock
Sherita@healthy-baby.net

School Readiness Network – Dirk Hightower
dhightower@childrensinstitute.net

Attendance Initiative Network – Jerome Underwood
Jerome.underwood@rcsdk12.org

Expanding Learning Opportunities Network – Mairead Hartman
MHartmann@racf.org

College Access Network – Pat Braus
info@rochestereducation.org



To participate in an attendance blitz, 3rd Thursday of every month from 9 to 11 am, contact:
Rhonda Kirkland at rhonda.kirkland@rcsdk12.org

To train and volunteer for an event to help RCSD students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form in January contact:
Stuart Hencke at shencke@gmail.com

To learn more about StriveTogether go to:
http://www.strivetogether.org/

ROC THE FUTURE

ROC the Future
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