EVERY CHILD...
CRADLE TO CAREER

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ALL FOR THE STUDENTS
JACKIE CAMPBELL,
ROC THE FUTURE DIRECTOR
ROC the Future envisions a community where leaders come together and work to improve outcomes for every child, at every step along the cradle-to-career continuum, by aligning resources and actions for Rochester’s children. Join us, and together we will accelerate and increase our impact!
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.

**CONVENERS Launch Outcome Teams to Improve Prioritized Cradle-to-Career Indicators**

**CONVENERS** engaged to address and remove barriers

**OUTCOME TEAMS** do deep dives on local data & research to identify critical factors

**OUTCOME TEAMS** launch strategy teams aligned to critical factors

**STRATEGY TEAMS** implement interventions, make adjustments and record & report on data

**PROGRESS REPORTED** to outcome teams
EVERY CHILD IS SCHOOL READY
Every Child is... School Ready

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 3100, 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, (i.e., EPK and UPK) and 50% were kindergarten ready, if they had one year of Pre-K, or, just UPK.
• 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 unfulfilled 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 pregnancy 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 Rosie video-modeling mobile app, to share important information about child development.

EPK AND UPK ENROLLMENT*

Source: NYS Education Dept., including Head Start

*4-year-old enrollment data recalculated to reflect unduplicated Head Start enrollment, and more accurate population estimate.
EVERY CHILD IS SUPPORTED
EVERY CHILD IS... SUPPORTED

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, to focus on improving 3rd grade literacy within the RCSD. It is reviewing data and research that supports reading and literacy acquisition so that children are able to read on grade level by 3rd grade. EGLOT is sponsored by Mayor Lovely Warren, and co-chaired by Dr. Karen Fahy, RCSD Executive Director of ELA/Integrated Literacy and Patricia Uttaro, Director of Rochester Public Library. The work of this Outcome Team will be supported by technical assistance from StriveTogether to accelerate improvement in this outcome.

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.

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.

ELEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Expanded Learning Opportunity CAN Summer Learning Subcommittee 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 incorporated into the diverse summer programs in our community whether a drop-in program, one day experience, camp experience, multi week or overnight camp experience.

**DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK**

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.

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.
EVERY CHILD IS SUCCESSFUL
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OUTCOME TEAM

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 best results. This research showed that critical to improving the high school graduation rate was supporting students in the 9th grade year, so that they were able to obtain 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.

SCHOOL CLIMATE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Acknowledging Rochester’s low rank in New York State’s five big districts in terms of high school graduation, RCSD took aggressive action to change practice and implement strategies to improve school climate. Implementation of the new Code of Conduct has engaged school-based personnel, District staff and School Board members in processes and strategies focused on improving the climate of classroom instruction. The year-long work of a leadership Advisory Committee on Classroom Climate has supported the growth of restorative practices, reduction of student suspensions, and the introduction of training and instructional programs anchored in racial and cultural knowledge and skills. Their work with School Board Commissioners helped to develop District-wide and sustained policy improvements which have created environments that promote high expectations for student success, to better prepare them for high school graduation, college and beyond.
EVERY CHILD IS COLLEGE & CAREER READY
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. 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.

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE

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.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: % OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE AT ANY TIME DURING THE FIRST YEAR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
Source: RCSD Analysis of National Student Clearinghouse

COLLEGE PERSISTENCE: % OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE THE FIRST YEAR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, AND WHO RETURNED FOR A SECOND YEAR
Source: RCSD Analysis of National Student Clearinghouse

COLLEGE COMPLETION: % OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO COMPLETED A DEGREE WITHIN SIX YEARS
Source: RCSD Analysis of National Student Clearinghouse

FAFSA EARLY SUBMISSIONS BY END OF MARCH
Source: Rochester Education Foundation
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

Monroe County
Nazareth College §
North East Charter School Network
NYS Regent Wade Norwood
NYS Assemblyman Joe Morelle
NYS Senator Joe Robach
Rochester Area Community Foundation* ‡
Rochester City School Board
Rochester City School District §
Rochester Education Foundation §
Rochester Public Library §
St. John Fisher College*
SUNY Brockport/REOC
The Children’s Agenda*
United Way of Greater Rochester ‡
University of Rochester §

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.

* Provides Backbone Staff Support
‡ ROC the Future Funder
§ Outcome Teams and Collaborative Action Leads
OUTCOME TEAMS AND CAN MEMBERSHIPS

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

EARLY GRADE READING OUTCOME TEAM
LEAD: City of Rochester, 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, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Fidelius 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 Plan for Medical Care, MVP Healthcare, Nazareth College, NeighborWorks Rochester, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parkway OBGYN, Pathstone, Phillis Wheatley Library, Planned Parenthood, Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, Rochester City School District, Regional Primary Care Network, Society for the Protection and Care of Children, Successful Pathways, The Housing Council, The Women’s Center at Alexander Park, Trillium Health, Unity Health/Rochester Regional, Unity West Main OBGYN, University of Rochester Medical Center

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: Greater Rochester After School Alliance
Membership: Rochester City School District, United 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, Boy Scouts, YMCA, EnCompass Resources, Boys & Girls Club, Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association, Monroe County Library Association, Cameron Community Ministries, RochesterWorks! Youth Services System

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK
LEAD: Rochester City School District
Membership includes committed volunteers who regularly participate in monthly attendance blitzes, as well as representatives from the following organizations: Causewave Community Partners, Coordinated Care Services, Inc., Hillside Children’s Center, Ibero American Action League, Monroe County Department of Probation, RochesterAmericorps, WDKX 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, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, Horizons-Cognitive Marketing, JJ 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 REOC, 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 dhightower@childrensinsitute.net, ihiley1@naz.edu
School Attendance: contact rhonda.kirkland@rcsdk12.org. Knock on doors of RCSD parents, any 3rd Thursday of the month during the school year.
Expanded Learning Opportunities: contact cdandino@racf.org, edevaney@childrensinstitute.net
College Access: train and volunteer to help students and parents complete FAFSA form, contact shencke@gmail.com
Parent Engagement: contact suzannah_iadarola@urmc.rochester.edu, aharper@abcfion.org

Employ: youth in internships, letting them shadow your work, or provide them with a summer job.

Donate: to ROC the Future at www.racf.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 children are ages 0-5, register for the free ReadyRosie phone app for age-appropriate videos and tips to help your child learn from you.

Team Up: with your child’s teacher, and attend parent/teacher 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 medical 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.

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.

Donate: to ROC the Future at www.racf.org/ROCtheFuture

BUSINESS LEADERS

Invite: ROC the Future to present to your professional associations, boards, staff and colleagues.

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

Donate: to ROC the Future at www.racf.org/ROCtheFuture