Expand Out of School Time Opportunities in Rochester

Out of school time programs are the new neighborhood.

In some cases, children across the city have no other place in their community where they can play and be a kid. Across the nation children and youth spend on average 18.5 hours a week in out of school time (OST) programs. High quality programs are a valuable tool to support the growth, development, and health of a child.

National studies demonstrate participation in high quality OST programs contributes to overall student success:

- Improved academic success
- Positive health outcomes
- Strong Social-Emotional Skills
- Reduction in negative behaviors

Nationally, kids of all ages spend 18.5 hours a week in OST programs. This adds up to almost 36% of additional instructional time outside of the traditional school day.

Nearly 70% of Rochester students are not engaged in a structured, consistent experience during non-school hours. We are missing a big opportunity to boost their chances of reading at grade level, graduating from high school, and achieving other milestones on a path toward success.

Only 31% of Rochester children in need can access OST programs.
Despite the need for additional funding for OST programs, funding for these critical programs has declined across New York State. This is detrimental to our children locally, who rely on OST and expanded learning opportunities, and to the 14,000 children in Rochester who are unable to access these essential programs.⁷

**Rochester has the highest need, but lowest level of funding of the Big 4 Cities**

Rochester has a higher child poverty rate than Buffalo and Syracuse. Rochester's high school graduation rate (48%) lags well behind Syracuse (61%) and Buffalo (62%). Yet in the last round of 21st Century funding, Rochester received $2.6M compared to Buffalo's $6M.

### Recommendations

Increase funding for the City of Rochester's out of school time programs by:

1. Robustly supporting the Rochester City School District's application for new Empire State After-School Program funding. If fully funded, the proposal would substantially increase OST opportunities for Rochester's youth and their success in school and life.

### Works Cited

4. "Outcomes Linked to High-Quality After-school Programs: Longitudinal Findings from the Study of Promising After-school Programs", 2007, Univ. of CA-Irvine & Policy Studies Assoc