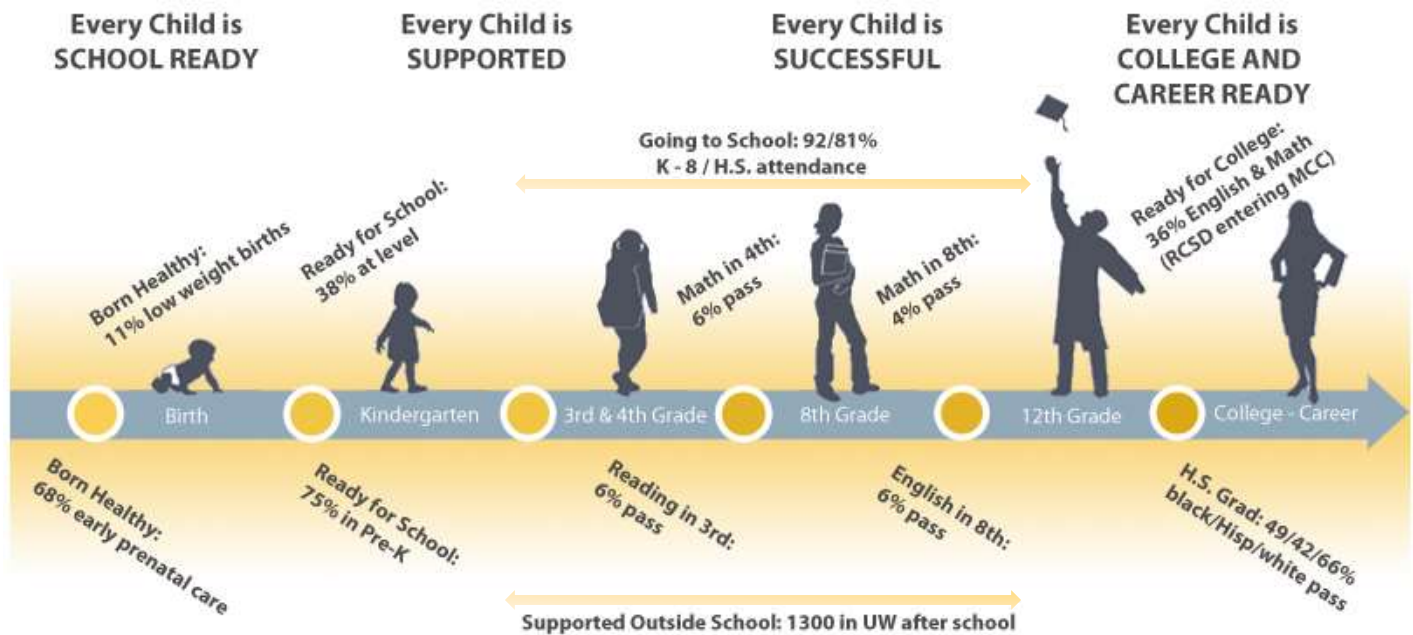




REPORT CARD



Our community’s future depends on the success of our children. To be sure, there are many ongoing efforts dedicated to Rochester’s children. ROC the Future is designed to improve the coordination of these efforts across the community. This report card gives us a place to start by grading the job we, as a community, are doing to prepare our kids to succeed. It lays out significant educational milestones along the path from cradle to college/career and assesses how our children are doing at each point.

Both this report card and ROC the Future focus on the City of Rochester because the needs are greatest there. Half of Rochester’s children are growing up in poverty, one of the highest rates in the nation. Growing up poor doesn’t make learning impossible, but it does make it more difficult. These children must overcome obstacles in their families and neighborhoods ranging from crime to homelessness to poor nutrition to inadequate health care. To make a difference for these children, we must align our community’s efforts, assuring that they add up to more than any one program or initiative can provide.

Although the ROC the Future collaborative is tracking more than forty measures, the report card provides “grades” for the selected milestones on the cradle to college/career pathway. The indicators were selected by the ROC the Future collaborative action network members, networks made up of volunteer professionals and community members with expertise and experience in areas like school readiness, extended learning, and college preparation. Like all of ROC the Future, the Report Card supports collective action aimed at improving outcomes for Rochester’s children.

So, what are the key milestones that will help us learn where to focus our efforts in service of our community's children?

EVERY CHILD IS SCHOOL READY

BORN HEALTHY

Children's success begins before they are born with mothers who take care of themselves and their developing babies, starting with regular doctor visits. In Rochester, 68% of mothers began prenatal care early in their pregnancies, compared to 78% in Monroe County as a whole. Children born small at are greater risk of learning problems down the line. Nearly 11% of Rochester babies had low weights at birth (under 5.5 pounds), compared to 8.4% in the county. (Data from 2011) **Grade: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT**

READY FOR SCHOOL

Schools need to be ready for kids, with good teachers, adequate supports and supplies, and engaging instruction. But children also need to be ready for school. Rochester has one of the highest rate of pre-kindergarten participation in the region: 75% of Rochester's 4-year-olds were in publicly funded programs (2011). Yet too many children still lack necessary skills: Just 38% of city children who attended pre-K were at expected levels in language development, math and other areas on a screening assessment done in the fall of their pre-K year (Data from 2013). **Grade: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT**

EVERY CHILD IS SUPPORTED

GOING TO SCHOOL

As is often said, half the battle is won by just showing up. Yet too many Rochester students don't show up for school. Average daily attendance levels are 92% in elementary schools (K-6) and much lower – 81% -- in secondary schools (7-12), compared to 95% and 92% in Monroe County. (Data from 2012) We know these figures can mask very low attendance rates by some students, so we've been promised data on chronic absence from the Rochester City School District. **Grade: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT**

SUPPORTED OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Learning shouldn't stop at 3 p.m. or in June. When children and youth participate in quality after-school and summer learning opportunities, they are more likely to do better in school. They also form relationships that keep them safe and engaged in positive activities. As a community, we don't have an accurate count of the total number of students attending high-quality after-school and summer programs, but we do know that about 1,300 children attend afterschool programs funded by the United Way. In addition, the Rochester School District is expanding afterschool opportunities through its extended day initiative.

Grade: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

EVERY CHILD IS SUCCESSFUL

READING BY 3RD GRADE

Research shows that students who are reading on grade level by 3rd grade have a much better chance of successfully finishing high school. Rochester's children have far to go – in 2013, just 6% passed the state's new, tougher reading test, compared to 31% in Monroe County. Historically, test scores have been lower among low-income, African-American and Hispanic children, though we do not yet have those breakouts for the new tests. **Grade: FAIL**

MATH IN 4TH GRADE

Early numeracy (number smarts) is as essential as literacy. Students with a strong foundation in math also have more college and career opportunities related to valuable Science, Technology, Engineering and Math pathways—the so-called STEM fields. Yet in 2013, just 6% of Rochester’s 4th graders passed the state’s math exam, compared to 34% in Monroe County. **Grade: FAIL**

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

The years leading up to high school are pivotal – good attendance and decent grades in 8th grade improve the odds that a young person will successfully transfer to the high school environment. Far too many Rochester 8th graders are failing – just 6% passed the state’s English exam (compared to 37% in Monroe County) and 4% passed math (vs. 31% in the county). (Data from 2013) **Grade: FAIL**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

A productive, self-sustaining adult life begins with graduation from high school. Overall, less than half of Rochester’s students successfully complete high school in 4 years: 49% among African-American students, 42% among Hispanic and Asian students, and 62% among white students. (Data for Class of 2012)

Grade: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

EVERY CHILD IS COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

READY FOR COLLEGE

High school graduation rates are always a topic of interest, but increasingly, they tell only a small part of the story on college readiness. Nationally and locally, graduating from high school is too often disconnected from being adequately prepared for college. Far too many students cross the stage at high school graduation and walk directly into remedial courses in college—if they are even able to meet admission standards. Colleges use a common set of measures for academic readiness: high school grades, diploma type, and aptitude and placement tests. The majority of Rochester City School District students who go on to college attend Monroe Community College (MCC). In 2012 at MCC, 71% of RCSD graduates were deemed college ready in English, but just 41% were placed in college-level math, and only 36% were college ready in both subjects. The significant disconnect in Rochester between high school graduation and college readiness means that the majority of city students may have limited opportunity to access the full range of college options. To build a broader range of indicators of college readiness, we’ve requested data from RCSD on the share of students taking the SAT, details on where all graduates have enrolled in college, and how they’re doing. **Grade: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT**

ACT Rochester hosts ROC the Future indicators. Review all of the indicators at <http://www.actrochester.org/roc-the-future/>.