



Racial And Structural Equity

Introduction

Who we are – some background

- For the past five years, the Education CART has been learning, educating, advocating, and taking action to advance education justice, bringing together educators, parents, school board members, insurers, and nonprofits.
- This CART brings together community members, nonprofits, local government, insurers, educators, school board members, and parents working and volunteering countless hours to address barriers in education.
- Key Issues:**
 - Limited Access to Resources
 - Testing and Curriculum
 - Language Access
 - Funding
 - Discipline
 - School Segregation and Integration
- RASE seeks to dismantle systemic and structural racism and building a more just, equitable, and inclusive Rochester and Monroe County.

Progress

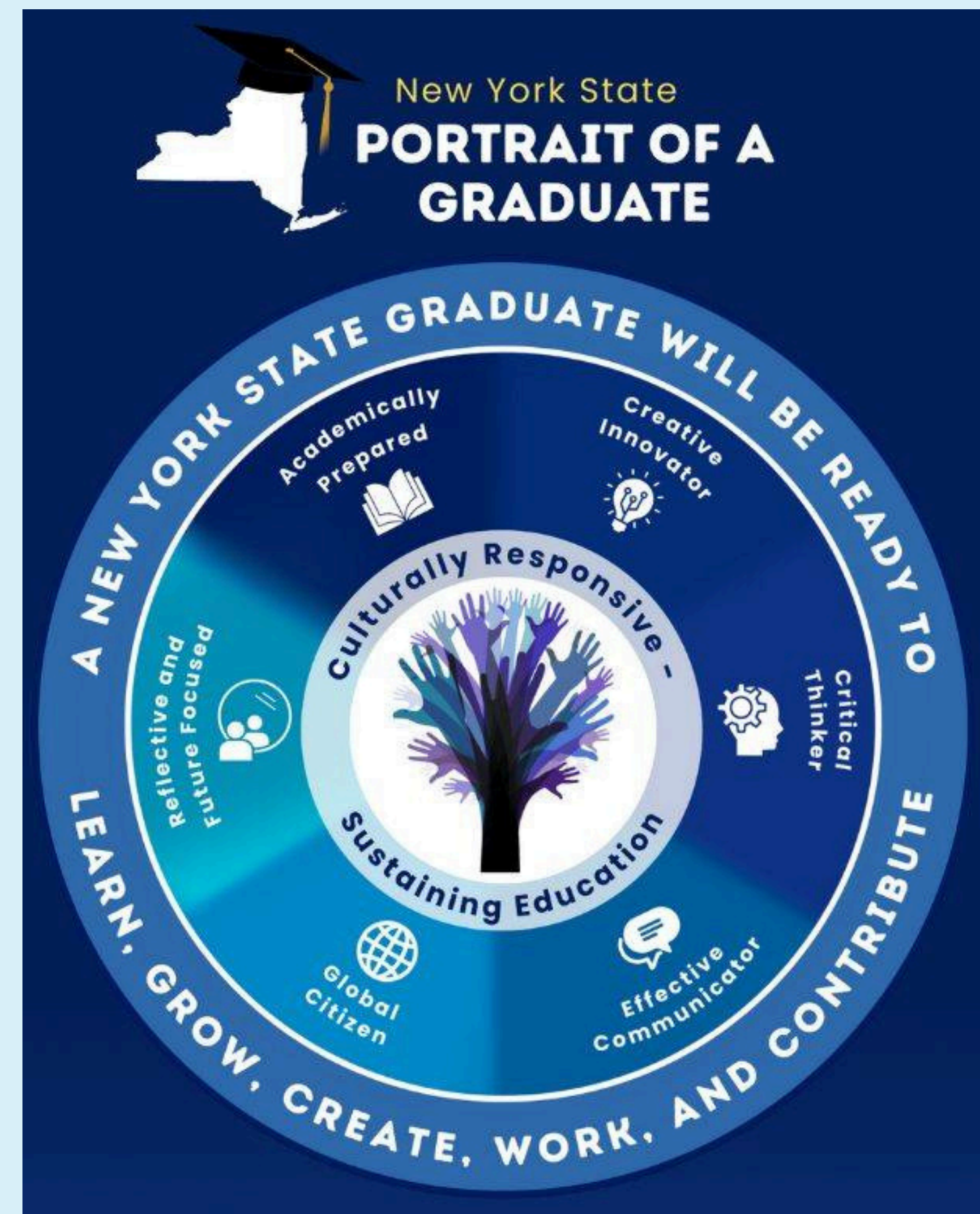
What got done – some examples

- 1) Mental Health & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** (ref. R2, R15)
 - All RCSD students now have access to mental health support through Telehealth.
 - NYS plans a credit-bearing Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum aligned with the “Portrait of a Graduate” framework.
- 2) Alternative Assessments & Student Skills** (ref. R4, R5)
 - Padilla High School and West Irondequoit High School are NYS pilot schools using performance-based assessments, allowing students to demonstrate skills as an alternative to Regents Exams.
- 3) Curriculum & Anti-Racism Education** (ref. R6, R9)
 - Our Local History’s anti-racist curriculum is used in 20 school districts, integrating authentic and multicultural history into Social Studies for grades 2–12.
 - Approx. 5,708 Monroe County educators across 22 school districts, BOCES, and 6 charter/private schools have received training from Our Local History on the local history of enslavement, redlining, racist policy and resistance, and interrupting harmful comments.



Community Advancing Recommendations Team (CART)

Current CART Members: Luva Alvarez, Cynthia Butterworth, Tina Carney, Roberta Davis, Angelica Davis-Bernard, Jason DeLooze, Elizabeth Devaney, Dan Drmacich, Joe Fagnoli, Timna Frank-Spock, Latesha Fussell, Tricia Gonzalez, Monica Graham, Lisa Johnson, Raegen Lawrence, Brian Lewis, Muhammad Loyd, Dr. Candice Lucas, Gladys Magee, Elizabeth Maxwell, Colleen Regelsberger, Shannon Regelsberger, Willie Robinson, Taurean Uthman, Tamara Wall, Tatiana L. Welch, Jamia Williams, Trisha Wise, Rahimah Wynn.

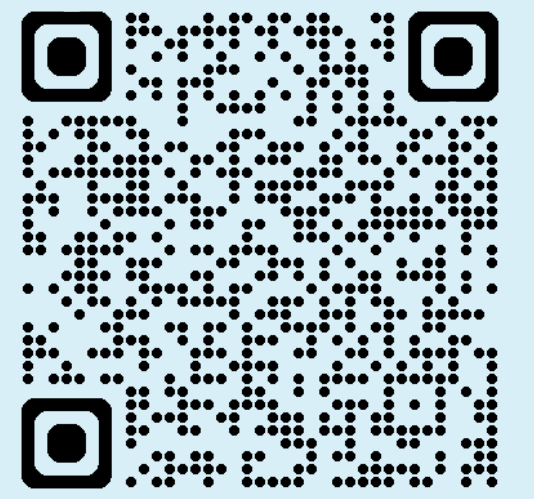


4) Restorative Practices & Discipline Reform (ref. R16, R17)

- RCSD runs the ROCRestorative HUB at Douglass High School, providing restorative services.
- The Children’s Agenda leads early intervention strategies through the Solutions Not Suspensions Coalition and supports regular reviews of disciplinary data.

5) Teacher Diversity & Equity Training (ref. R19)

- RCSD is building pipelines to recruit more diverse teachers, offering incentives like tuition assistance.
- All new RCSD educators receive equity and diversity training.
- Local colleges (MCC, University of Rochester, and Nazareth) are running teacher residency and mentoring programs to prepare and support future educators.



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Challenges

What slowed us down – some examples

State Policy

- Gaining state approval for new assessment methods involves navigating state-level policies.

Data Tracking

- Different districts report discipline data in different ways, making it hard to measure the impact of restorative practices.
- Monroe County school districts do not all track and share teacher recruitment and hiring data.

Leadership Changes

- Frequent changes in RCSD leadership slow progress by creating new priorities and disrupting long-term initiatives.

Future

Still to do – some examples

- Advocate for fair assessments that truly reflect student learning and prepare them for future success.
- Expand equitable access to mental health and social-emotional support for all students.
- Make school discipline data clear and easy to see, so schools can use restorative practices and build more supportive environments.
- Support the initiatives focused on retaining teachers of color and tracking their progress.
- Monitor State and Federal changes to education.
- Increase Education CART participation from every school district in the County.

5th Annual RASE Community Update October 6, 2025

Urban League of Rochester - Successor organization to the Commisison on RASE