

Legislative Bill Drafting Commission
13158-05-9

S. -----
Senate

IN SENATE--Introduced by Sen

--read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed
to the Committee on

----- A.
Assembly

IN ASSEMBLY--Introduced by M. of A.

with M. of A. as co-sponsors

--read once and referred to the
Committee on

EDUC
(Establishes the Rochester city
school district empowerment act)

Rochester district empowerment

AN ACT

to establish the Rochester city
school district empowerment act; and
providing for the repeal of such
provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New
York, represented in Senate and
Assembly, do enact as follows:

IN SENATE

Senate introducer's signature

The senators whose names are circled below wish to join me in the sponsorship
of this proposal:

s15 Addabbo	s02 Flanagan	s09 Kaminsky	s25 Montgomery	s23 Savino
s52 Akshar	s55 Funke	s07 Kaplan	s20 Myrie	s32 Sepulveda
s46 Amedore	s59 Gallivan	s26 Kavanagh	s58 O'Mara	s41 Serino
s50 Antonacci	s05 Gaughran	s63 Kennedy	s62 Ortt	s29 Serrano
s36 Bailey	s12 Gianaris	s28 Krueger	s21 Parker	s51 Seward
s30 Benjamin	s22 Gounardes	s24 Lanza	s19 Persaud	s39 Skoufis
s34 Biaggi	s47 Griffo	s01 LaValle	s13 Ramos	s16 Stavisky
s04 Boyle	s40 Harckham	s45 Little	s61 Ranzzenhofer	s35 Stewart-
s44 Breslin	s54 Helming	s11 Liu	s48 Ritchie	Cousins
s08 Brooks	s27 Hoylman	s03 Martinez	s33 Rivera	s49 Tedisco
s38 Carlucci	s31 Jackson	s53 May	s56 Robach	s06 Thomas
s14 Comrie	s60 Jacobs	s37 Mayer	s18 Salazar	s57
s17 Felder	s43 Jordan	s42 Metzger	s10 Sanders	

IN ASSEMBLY

Assembly introducer's signature

The Members of the Assembly whose names are circled below wish to join me in the
multi-sponsorship of this proposal:

a049 Abbate	a072 De La Rosa	a029 Hyndman	a144 Norris	a090 Sayegh
a092 Abinanti	a034 DenDekker	a104 Jacobson	a069 O'Donnell	a140 Schimminger
a084 Arroyo	a003 DeStefano	a097 Jaffee	a051 Ortiz	a099 Schmitt
a107 Ashby	a070 Dickens	a011 Jean-Pierre	a091 Otis	a076 Seawright
a035 Aubry	a054 Dilan	a135 Johns	a132 Palmesano	a052 Simon
a120 Barclay	a081 Dinowitz	a115 Jones	a002 Palumbo	a036 Simotas
a030 Barnwell	a147 DiPietro	a077 Joyner	a088 Paulin	a005 Smith
a106 Barrett	a016 D'Urso	a040 Kim	a141 Peoples-	a118 Smullen
a060 Barron	a048 Eichenstein	a131 Kolb	Stokes	a022 Solages
a082 Benedetto	a004 Englebright	a105 Lalor	a058 Perry	a114 Stec
a042 Bichotte	a074 Epstein	a013 Lavine	a023 Pheffer	a110 Steck
a079 Blake	a109 Fahy	a134 Lawrence	Amato	a010 Stern
a117 Blankenbush	a061 Fall	a050 Lentol	a086 Pichardo	a127 Stirpe
a098 Brabene	a080 Fernandez	a125 Lifton	a089 Pretlow	a102 Tague
a026 Braunstein	a126 Finch	a009 LiPetri	a073 Quart	a071 Taylor
a138 Bronson	a008 Fitzpatrick	a123 Lupardo	a019 Ra	a001 Thiele
a093 Buchwald	a124 Friend	a129 Magnarelli	a012 Raia	a031 Titus
a142 Burke	a046 Frontus	a064 Malliotakis	a006 Ramos	a033 Vanel
a119 Buttenschon	a095 Galef	a130 Manktelow	a018 Raynor	a116 Walczyk
a094 Byrne	a137 Gantt	a108 McDonald	a062 Reilly	a055 Walker
a133 Byrnes	a007 Garbarino	a014 McDonough	a087 Reyes	a143 Wallace
a103 Cahill	a148 Giglio	a146 McMahan	a043 Richardson	a112 Walsh
a044 Carroll	a066 Glick	a017 Mikulin	a078 Rivera	a041 Weinstein
a047 Colton	a150 Goodell	a101 Miller, B.	a068 Rodriguez	a024 Weprin
a032 Cook	a075 Gottfried	a038 Miller, M. G.	a136 Romeo	a059 Williams
a085 Crespo	a021 Griffin	a020 Miller, M. L.	a027 Rosenthal, D.	a113 Woerner
a122 Crouch	a100 Gunther	a015 Montesano	a067 Rosenthal, L.	a056 Wright
a039 Cruz	a139 Hawley	a145 Morinello	a025 Rozic	a096 Zebrowski
a063 Cusick	a083 Heastie	a057 Mosley	a149 Ryan	
a045 Cymbrowitz	a028 Hevesi	a065 Niou	a121 Salka	
a053 Davila	a128 Hunter	a037 Nolan	a111 Santabarbara	

1) Single House Bill (introduced and printed separately in either or
both houses). Uni-Bill (introduced simultaneously in both houses and printed
as one bill. Senate and Assembly introducer sign the same copy of the bill).

2) Circle names of co-sponsors and return to introduction clerk with 2
signed copies of bill and 4 copies of memorandum in support (single house);
or 4 signed copies of bill and 8 copies of memorandum
in support (uni-bill).

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Rochester city school district empowerment act".

3 § 2. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds the Rochester
4 city school district has historically underperformed and is in need of
5 intervention to improve the outcomes of all students in the district. In
6 August 2018, the commissioner of education appointed a distinguished
7 educator who conducted a review of the Rochester city school district
8 and proposed a series of recommendations related to the areas of gover-
9 nance and leadership, teaching and learning, professional development,
10 district operations, the education of students with disabilities and
11 English language learners, and parent and community engagement. The
12 distinguished educator has made it clear that the Rochester city school
13 district needs support in improving the district's systems, structures
14 and operations and addressing gaps in student services and academic
15 performance.

16 § 3. Definitions. As used in this act:

17 (a) "commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of education;

18 (b) "board of education" or "board" shall mean the board of education
19 of the Rochester city school district;

20 (c) "superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of the Rochester
21 city school district; and

22 (d) "school district" shall mean the Rochester city school district.

23 § 4. Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, with funds available from
24 the state, the superintendent, in consultation with the commissioner,
25 shall convert all schools that have been designated as comprehensive
26 support and improvement schools by the commissioner to community schools
27 to provide expanded health, mental health and other services to students
28 and their families. Before the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year,

1 the superintendent shall develop a strategic plan setting forth how the
2 district plans to transform such schools into community hubs to deliver
3 co-located or school-linked academic, health, mental health, nutrition,
4 counseling, legal and/or other services to students and their families
5 in a manner that will lead to improved educational and other outcomes.
6 Nothing in this act shall preclude any school in the Rochester city
7 school district from converting to a community school.

8 § 5. Board member training. (a) In addition to the training required
9 under section 2102-a of the education law, every member of the board of
10 education shall annually complete a minimum of twelve hours of training
11 on the roles and responsibilities of board members. Such training shall
12 include education on ethics, public relations, cultural sensitivity and
13 responsiveness, dispute resolution, governance, and the appropriate role
14 of board members, the board president, and the superintendent.

15 (b) The curriculum used for such training shall be approved by the
16 commissioner. Such curricula may be offered together as a single course
17 or separately. The training required by this section shall be offered by
18 providers approved by the commissioner. In approving providers for these
19 trainings, the commissioner shall consider the potential provider's
20 understanding of the educational environment, the roles of trustees and
21 boards of education and boards of cooperative educational services, and
22 the experience of the provider in delivering such training.

23 (c) Each board member of the school district shall demonstrate compli-
24 ance with these requirements by filing with the district clerk a certifi-
25 cate of completion of such training issued by the provider. Actual and
26 necessary expenses incurred by a board member in complying with the
27 foregoing requirements shall be a charge against the school district.

1 § 6. Powers and duties. (a) The board of education and the superinten-
2 dent shall jointly develop written guidelines clearly delineating the
3 powers and duties of such board of education and superintendent. The
4 superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the board of
5 education and the school district educational system. As the chief exec-
6 utive officer, the superintendent shall execute all powers and duties
7 authorized in this act, section 2566 of the education law, and any other
8 applicable state law or regulations, including managing all pre-kinder-
9 garten, elementary, and secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the
10 school district. The board of education shall execute only the powers
11 and duties authorized in this act, article 52 of the education law, and
12 any other applicable state law or regulation.

13 (b) In the event of a disagreement between the board of education and
14 the superintendent or amongst members of such board, including but not
15 limited to disagreements arising from a failure to adhere to the powers
16 and duties established under paragraph (a) of this section, such board
17 of education or superintendent shall initiate mediation. Such mediation
18 shall be conducted by a mediator that is chosen from a mutually agreed
19 upon list of qualified mediators furnished by a community dispute resol-
20 ution center under article 21-A of the judiciary law. Such list shall
21 be established within 60 days of enactment of this act and renewed annu-
22 ally at the start of each school year. The superintendent and the board
23 of education shall participate in good faith with any request for medi-
24 ation.

25 § 7. Strategic academic improvement plan. The board of education and
26 superintendent shall develop a long term strategic academic improvement
27 plan within 60 days from the enactment of this act. Such plan shall
28 include a set of goals with appropriate benchmarks and measurable objec-

1 tives to address areas where improvements are needed in the school
2 district including but not limited to communication, the education of
3 English language learners, the education of students with disabilities,
4 professional development, and parent engagement.

5 § 8. Rochester city school district children's advisory council. There
6 is hereby established the Rochester city school district children's
7 advisory council. The council shall provide advice and guidance to the
8 superintendent with the mission of improving the educational outcomes of
9 all students in the school district. The council shall meet at least
10 once per month for the first year following the enactment of this act
11 and thereafter at least three times annually and consist of seven
12 members who shall be appointed by the district-wide Rochester city
13 school district school-based planning executive committee. The members
14 of the council shall be residents of the county of Monroe and include,
15 but not be limited to, community groups and experts in child develop-
16 ment, mental health, trauma informed learning, English language lear-
17 ners, students with disabilities, and culturally responsive teaching.
18 No member of the council shall hold any elected public office or office
19 in any political party. Members of such council shall serve a term of
20 five years, and shall not be compensated for their service and may be
21 reappointed. A vacancy occurring for any reason shall be filled by the
22 district-wide Rochester city school district planning executive commit-
23 tee.

24 § 9. Nothing in this act shall be construed to abrogate or affect any
25 provision of a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to article 14 of
26 the civil service law.

1 § 10. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire on July
2 1, 2025 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed
3 repealed.