

HOW ARE STUDENTS IN THE FOSTER SYSTEM FARING IN **NEW YORK'S BIG 4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES?**

Rochester City School District and Monroe County

Key Findings (2017–18 through 2024–25 school years):

In a typical 180-day school year, **students in the foster system in Rochester City School District and students not in the foster system missed about the same number of school days at thirty-one and thirty-two days (more than six weeks), respectively.**

In a 180-day typical year, **Hispanic or Latino students in the foster system in Rest of Monroe County had the highest attendance rate of any student subgroup by race and foster status in the region at 95 percent.**

Black or African American students in the foster system in Rest of Monroe County had the highest rates of in-school suspensions in the region—nearly double that of their peers who weren't in the foster system in Rest of Monroe County.

Hispanic or Latino students in the foster system in Rochester City School District had the highest rates of out-of-school suspensions regionally—they were nearly three times as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension as their Hispanic or Latino peers who weren't in the foster system in Rochester City School District.

Average Enrollment (Number of Students)			
SFS = Students in the Foster System SNFS = Students not in the Foster System			
Rochester City School District		Rest of Monroe County	
SFS	SNFS	SFS	SNFS
75	23,823	144	79,105

Average Enrollment By Race (Number of Students)					
Rochester City School District			Rest of Monroe County		
	SFS	SNFS		SFS	SNFS
Black or African American	42	12,438	Black or African American	40	11,084
Hispanic or Latino	19	7,921	Hispanic or Latino	36	8,991
White	12	2,185	White	60	50,895

Lowest Average Attendance Rates (Regionally)

Lowest average attendance, by foster status:

Rochester City School District students not in the foster system



82%

On average, in a typical 180-day school year, Rochester City School District students not in the foster system missed the most school in the region at 18 percent of school days, or about thirty-two days (six weeks). However, that attendance rate was *only marginally lower* than students in the foster system in Rochester City School District who had an attendance rate of 83 percent.

Lowest average attendance, by foster status and race:

Rochester City School District Hispanic or Latino students not in the foster system



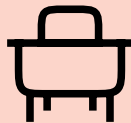
80%

On average, in a typical 180-day school year, Hispanic or Latino Rochester City School District students not in the foster system missed about 20 percent of school days, or thirty-six days (seven weeks), the most of any student subgroup by race and foster status. However, Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American Rochester City School District students in the foster system had *only marginally higher* attendance rates, at 81 percent.

Highest Average In-School Suspension Rates (Regionally)

Highest average in-school suspension rate, by foster status:

Rochester City School District students in the foster system

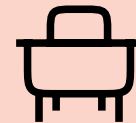


10%
(1 in 10 students)

On average, in a typical school year, students in the foster system in Rochester City School District received in-school suspensions at a rate *more than one and a half times higher* than their peers who weren't in the foster system in Rochester City School District (about 6 percent or 1 in 16 students).

Highest average in-school suspension rate, by foster status and race:

Rest of Monroe County Black or African American students in the foster system



15%
(1 in 7 students)

On average, in a typical school year, Black or African American students in the foster system in Rest of Monroe County received in-school suspensions at a rate about *twice as high* as their Black or African American peers who weren't in the foster system in Rest of Monroe County (about 7 percent or 1 in 14 students).

Highest Average Out-of-School Suspension Rates (Regionally)

Highest average out-of-school suspension rate, by foster status:

Rochester City School District students in the foster system

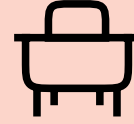


17%
(1 in 6 students)

On average, in a typical year, students in the foster system in Rochester City School District received out-of-school suspensions at a rate *nearly twice as high* as their peers who weren't in the foster system in Rochester City School District (9 percent or 1 in 11 students).

Highest average out-of-school suspension rate, by foster status and race:

Rochester City School District Hispanic or Latino students in the foster system



20%
(1 in 5 students)

On average, in a typical year, Hispanic or Latino students in the foster system in Rochester City School District received out-of-school suspensions at a rate *nearly three times higher* than their Hispanic or Latino peers who weren't in the foster system in Rochester City School District (7 percent or 1 in 14 students).

Policy Recommendations:

- **Child Welfare.** New York State Office of Children and Families (OCFS) and the Rochester Department of Human Services (DHS) should conduct an in-depth analysis of the attendance and discipline outcomes of students in the foster system served by schools in the region and provide targeted support to students and school staff, where necessary, to improve outcomes. Particular attention should be paid to the experiences of Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino students due to their greater risk for lower attendance rates and suspensions.
- **Education.** New York State Education Department (SED), Monroe County school districts, Monroe County schools, Rochester City School District, and Monroe County charter schools should partner with Monroe County DHS to identify students in the foster system; develop and provide trauma-informed practices trainings and restorative discipline practices training for school staff that addresses the unique needs of foster youth; and provide holistic social-emotional and behavioral supports for students.

This data sheet is informed by data received from the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) regarding foster and non-foster students. The data is a cumulative assessment of data inclusive of the 2017-18 through 2024-25 school years.

For more information about the data and methodology, see the Appendix section of "[Lost Time: Foster Students' Educational Experience in New York's Big 4 School Districts and Surrounding Counties.](#)"