

Local childhood nonprofit gets national recognition for education initiatives

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The local childhood nonprofit ROC the Future Alliance has been awarded the Systems Change designation from StriveTogether, a national network focused on improving educational and life outcomes for children.

The recognition highlights the organization's impact in shifting policies, practices, resources and power structures to create equitable opportunities for Rochester's youths, particularly children of color and those facing poverty.

ROC the Future Alliance is part of the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network, a national initiative ensuring every child succeeds in school and beyond, regardless of race, ZIP code, or background. The organization collaborates with community partners to address disparities in education, health care, housing, and other essential services — efforts that help more young people achieve upward mobility.

"I'm thrilled to announce Rochester as the most recent community to prove it's making a measurable difference for every child," said Jennifer Blatz, president and CEO of StriveTogether. "ROC

the Future Alliance puts parent and community voice at the forefront, dismantling structural inequities and fostering a shared vision across the Rochester community."

One key initiative is a collaboration between ROC the Future Alliance, the Rochester City School District and local health care providers to ensure that all district schools offer on-site telehealth and mental health services.

Another major effort, PedRoc4Kids, brings together health care systems, schools and the community to enhance student well-being, with plans to expand to charter schools.

ROC the Future Alliance has led a campaign to increase early childhood education enrollment, successfully filling more than 2,600 seats for 3- and 4-year-olds. Health care providers help promote early learning and ensure vaccinations at well-child visits.

"As we build on the success of this important milestone, we envision a community where systems work for all, especially our Black and brown children and families," said Brian Lewis, executive director of ROC the Future Alliance. "Together, we want to move the needle on kindergarten readiness, early grade literacy, math proficiency and high school graduation so that every child can thrive."



The ROC the Future Alliance PROVIDED BY ROC THE FUTURE ALLIANCE