



## City of Rochester, NY

City Hall Room 308A, 30 Church Street  
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www.cityofrochester.gov

Lovely A. Warren  
Mayor

July 12, 2019

Dear Friends,

**For far too long, our kids have been failed by a broken educational system in Rochester.**

As a result, we have all been affected – our friends, families, businesses and neighborhoods. But, as the Distinguished Educator concluded, the time for a total reset of our system is now.

**Everyone agrees that we must fix our schools and provide our kids the education they deserve.**

Earlier this month, the majority of City Council voted to allow a referendum on November 5 regarding temporary state leadership of our schools and I want to tell you why we believe this was necessary.

For decades, Mayors and City leadership have tried to work with the Board of Education to impact schools and improve the results for our children. **Over 67% of our children start kindergarten ready to learn. But, despite our best efforts, by 3rd grade only 17% of our students are reading and doing math at grade level. This 50% drop in test scores, along with almost half our students not graduating on time, demands action.**

**Many have shared that the most important voices -- City parents and residents -- have been ignored.** Many City parents have no choice but, to send their kids to a school system they know has failed almost half of its children. The referendum allows City parents and residents to be heard and decide the future of our schools.

**The power no longer rests with the school board, city council, other elected officials or even the mayor -- it is now in your hands.** During my tenure as Mayor, I have worked with 6 different Superintendents, many different School Chiefs and scores of others. The constant change of leadership in our schools and the lack of school autonomy is of great concern.

Temporary state leadership would allow us to reset the school system with the help of local and national educational experts. They would work, alongside parents, to implement the distinguished educator's recommendations including: **making every school a community school; improving special and expanding bilingual education; along with increased support for science, technology, arts, math and sports.**

**This year, your voice matters.** Our children's future is in your hands. In November you will get the voice you've been denied for far too many years. **I hope you join with me and vote** so, once and for all, we know exactly what you -- our parents and citizens -- want.

Frederick Douglass said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

**It's time that we start building strong children together.**



Sincerely,

Mayor Lovely A. Warren  
City of Rochester

