

## Expand alternative education

There are many good ideas out there about how to educate our children, but few ideas are being tried. It would be one thing if our children were getting an excellent education in the City. But they're not, and it is morally indefensible to ignore or halfheartedly support new ideas when the old ones aren't working. Our children pay the price for our inability to move forward.

I would like to see a school district where our children have many different avenues open to them. I want our children to have the learning environment most suited for their talents and abilities, most suited to the way each individual child is best able to learn. Education is too important to our future for us to shove every child into a one-size-fits-all mold.

That is why I will create a

Council of Advisors composed of those who have given years of their lives to the study and practice of alternative education. Those who follow the traditional assembly line method of education are also welcome to be represented if they are knowledgeable. I don't want to throw out what we have, I want to keep it and add more alternatives, more choices, more avenues that our children can travel on their journey to knowledge, and adulthood.

## Find out more

Website:

[www.vote-for-chris.net](http://www.vote-for-chris.net)

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# Chris Edes



for

City School Board



## Reopen schools safely

Children in the City face enough challenges already. There are single parents working two jobs, who are unable to supervise remote education. Children learning remotely do not receive the benefit of the free breakfast program, and hungry children do not learn well. While many efforts have been made during the pandemic to provide for those living in poverty, there is no substitute as effective as bringing a hungry child into a cafeteria and handing them something to eat. Remote learning is failing the poorest and most disadvantaged students, especially those with disabilities who need specialized instruction.

Unfortunately, it's clear the school district has not made adequate preparations at this time. Pictures released of students and staff standing too close together, not following state health guidelines, would

cause any reasonable person concern. We need to establish a program to monitor the implementation of our reopening plan.

I believe the best way to ensure that we are diligent is to be completely transparent, so that parents and teachers have the full picture, and can advocate for their needs and those of their students or children. Then we need to have persons whose job it is to listen, and who have the power to act on the feedback they receive. We can reopen our schools safely if these steps are taken.

## Ensure our money is not wasted

According to 2019-2020 RCSD budget, **it now costs \$37,454 per year to educate a student in Rochester.** Rochester's per-student spending is among the highest in the nation. New York City spends only \$28,808 per student per year, and faces the

same, if not greater, urban problems that Rochester does. New York City's graduation rate is 79%, while Rochester's is 68%. By comparison, almost all of the suburbs have graduation rates over 90%, and the average for Monroe County (including the City school district) is 88%.

The clear implication is that our money is being wasted. Either it's being spent on programs that don't serve our children's needs, or diverted to repay political favors from individuals and corporate interests. Whatever the truth may be, what we're doing now simply isn't working.

It is time for new leadership. I am not going to rubber-stamp every pet project, or tolerate waste rather than rock the boat. I do not have to fear upsetting the establishment, because if I am elected to the School Board, it will have nothing to do with the establishment's support. It will be entirely due to the people of Rochester, and I will be beholden to the people alone.