

Who Controls the RCSD Budget?

Board of Education

The 7 members of the board of education must adopt the RCSD budget every May by majority vote (4) for the upcoming school year.

Board members serve for four years and are elected citywide. Elections rotate every two years in odd numbered years: 2019, 2021, etc.

Board members are officially elected in November, but the Democratic primary in June usually decides who will win. Most voters in Rochester are registered Democrats and whoever gets on the ballot as a Democrat is likely to win. In New York State you must be registered with a political party to vote in that party's primary.

You can register to vote or for a political party here:
<https://www.monroecounty.gov/etc/voter/>

Superintendent

The superintendent's staff puts the budget together. The superintendent is supposed to create their budget based on the priorities of the board of education. However, the board is not aware of or involved in every decision.

Unions

Employees of the district can influence the budget in two ways:

- Providing support to the political campaigns of board members: money, volunteering, voting
- Collective bargaining: negotiated contracts that set salary increases and benefits

You

Residents of Rochester, NY cannot vote on the RCSD budget because of state law. However, you can vote for who serves on the board of education, and by voting for or lobbying board members you are able to influence the RCSD budget.

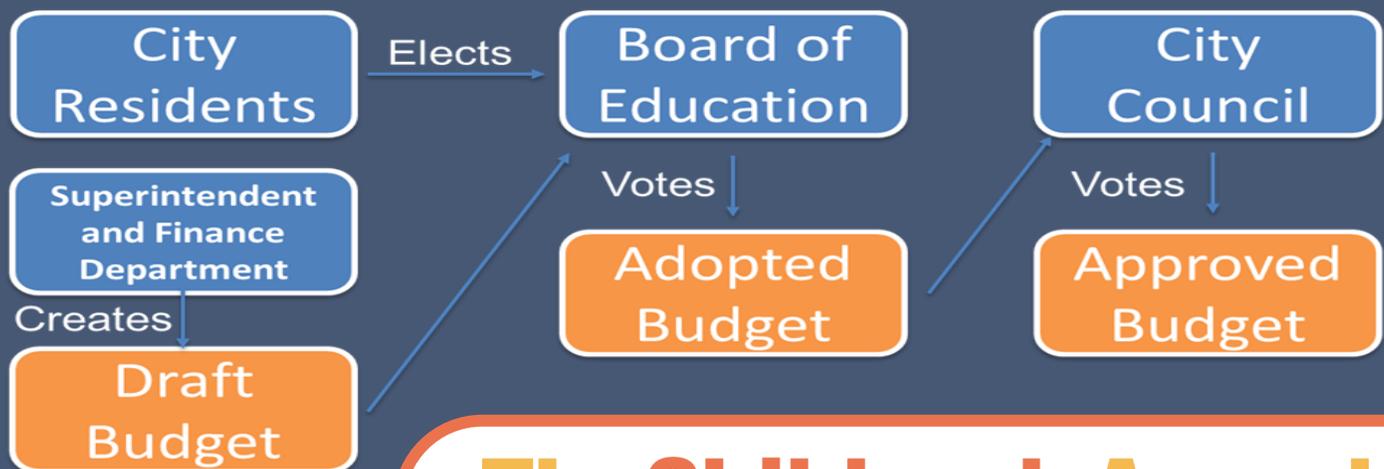
City Council

The Rochester City Council votes on the RCSD budget about a month after the board of education adopts it. City Council's vote does not influence the budget, because they must approve the budget if it is balanced. RCSD always submits a balanced budget, and therefore City Council always must approve it.

Mayor

The mayor has no official role in approving the RCSD budget. However, if City Council and the Mayor want to send additional funding to RCSD they may.

RCSD BUDGET DECISION-MAKERS



To speak at the Board of Education call
(585) 262-8525 by 12:00pm the day of the meeting.
You can find the calendar for meetings here:
<https://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/2>

TheChildren'sAgenda

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