



# Vince Felder

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At READY, we are committed to ensuring that families, educators, and community members have the information they need to make informed decisions about the future of public education in Rochester. We invited all candidates for the Rochester Board of Education to complete a questionnaire outlining their positions on key issues, including access to high-quality schools, educator diversity, student mental health, school choice, and transparency.

The responses published here represent the views and priorities of each candidate who chose to participate. We encourage you to review them carefully, share them with others, and use this information to help elect leaders who are prepared to serve our students and community with vision and accountability.

## Candidate Commitments

**READY champions a bold, community-driven vision for transforming education in Rochester. What specific actions will you take as an elected official to help bring this vision to life?**

**I believe that we must bring the entire Rochester community together to focus on the education of our children. That would be my focus.**



If elected, what are the top three priorities you will champion to ensure more Rochester students have access to thriving, high-performing public schools — district, charter, and new community-driven models — that reflect their needs and the community’s vision? (List up to three.)

1. Early Literacy
2. Effective Parent Engagement
3. Quality Schools in Every Neighborhood

## Candidate Priorities

Candidates were asked to express their level of agreement with the following statements on a 1–5 scale, where **1 means Strongly Agree** and **5 means Strongly Disagree**. The statements reflect core priorities for expanding access to high-quality, community-driven public education in Rochester.

I will support policies that protect and expand families' ability to choose high-performing public schools by ensuring access to transparent data and information on school performance, equitable enrollment, and school options that reflect the needs of students, families, and industry leaders.

1

I will support policies and initiatives that allow high-performing public schools to grow and thrive by ensuring equitable access to facilities, funding, and transportation.

1

I believe families have a right to clear, accessible information about school quality, academic performance, and student outcomes to make informed decisions.

1



## Candidate Priorities (Continued)

Candidates were asked to express their level of agreement with the following statements on a 1–5 scale, where 1 means Strongly Agree and 5 means Strongly Disagree. The statements reflect core priorities for expanding access to high-quality, community-driven public education in Rochester.

I will advocate for strategies and partnerships that increase the diversity of Rochester’s teaching workforce, particularly by reducing barriers to entry and retention for educators of color.

1

I will foster collaboration between all public school sectors, including RCSD, charter, and community-led initiatives, to expand access to high-performing public schools and ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

1

I will advocate for increased access to school-based mental health resources and partnerships that promote student well-being, recognizing social-emotional support as essential for academic success and equity.

1

I will push for transparent and consistent communication from all elected officials about education policies that affect Rochester families—ensuring parents, caregivers, and students have the information they need to be engaged advocates and informed decision-makers.

1



## Policy Perspectives

Public service requires a deep commitment to advancing educational equity, school safety, and the overall well-being of Rochester's families. To ensure all students—regardless of the type of public school they attend—have access to quality education and supportive learning environments, candidates were asked to respond to the following questions and briefly explain each response.

**Will you advocate for policies that expand families' access to quality public school options—including district, charter, and community-driven models—by supporting partnerships that reflect Rochester's diverse student needs and unlock opportunities for all children to succeed?**

Yes. I believe that collaboration between district and charter schools has to be explored. Given the reality that charter schools aren't going anywhere, it's time for us to work together so that all of our children can succeed.

**Will you support policies and initiatives that help high-performing schools—regardless of governance model—grow, thrive, and remain accessible to Rochester families who need quality education options now?**

Yes. With the educational crisis we have in Rochester, we must support all of our high-performing schools, and work to improve the ones that are struggling and/or mediocre. Every child has a right to a quality education.



## Policy Perspectives (continued)

**Will you prioritize equitable transportation access for all public school students by supporting policies that expand bus services and improve pedestrian safety—especially for students attending district and charter schools across the Rochester area?**

Yes. Part of this problem can be solved by having quality schools in every neighborhood, but we have to ensure that all of our children are arriving to school each day safe and on time.

**Will you ensure that all families have meaningful opportunities to shape the policies of the Rochester Board of Education that impact school quality, school facilities, and access to community resources?**

Yes. I believe that the RCSD Board of Education must do a much better job of including our families in the decision-making process in a real way. The more connected and involved families are, the better our students will perform.

**Do you support equitable access to city-owned assets and funding opportunities for all public schools, including charter schools, to address long-standing disparities in facilities and infrastructure?**

Yes. I was disappointed a few years ago when I learned that the District was keeping two buildings, that were scheduled to close, open for the express reason of keeping them from becoming occupied by charter schools. It's time for that way of thinking to end.



## Policy Perspectives (continued)

**Beyond general support, what specific actions will you take as a member of the Rochester Board of Education to increase access to thriving, high-quality schools across Rochester—especially for families historically excluded from such opportunities?**

**I would advocate for equitable funding, work to hire more Black and Latino teachers, push to implement a culturally relevant curriculum and develop criteria to measure how effective these initiatives are at achieving their desired results.**