



Bolgen Vargas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, New York 14614
www.rcsdk12.org

March 18, 2014

Dear Families and Students of East High School:

The New York State Education Department has sent me a directive regarding the future of your school. I am writing to share what we know, and to invite you to a town hall meeting next week where we can discuss it further.

The letter notes that East has failed to meet state requirements for academic progress over the last three years. As a result, the District has six weeks to submit a plan that will take effect in the next school year, and that (quoting from the letter) "includes at least one of the following actions:

- Close the school and relocate the students.
- Phase out the school and replace it with an entirely new school.
- Enter into a contract with an Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) to take over administration of the school.
- Convert the school to a charter school.
- Allow the State University of New York (SUNY) to provide for the education of students at the school."

Each option raises many questions, most of which cannot be answered immediately. Here are three things we know for certain.

1. **We will submit a plan by April 30th that includes at least one of these options, as required by the state.** There is no option to delay, propose alternatives or continue business as usual. Failure to comply would simply mean that the state will impose its own plan without involving the District.
2. **Students will get more Career and Technical Education options in the next school year.** Along with one of the options above, the District is required to offer East students placement in state-approved CTE programs at BOCES.
3. **The goal is to improve opportunities and achievement for all East High students.** The state acting urgently in the interest of students and families, because past efforts by your school and our District have not generated the improvement you deserve.

We are still in the process of forming our response team and will keep you informed as the process moves forward, starting with a Town Hall meeting.

- **Wednesday, March 26, 2014**
- **6:00 pm**
- **East High School Auditorium**

Members of my team and I will explain the state's requirements and do our best to answer your questions. Please be aware that no option has been selected, however, and many questions can't be answered yet. Our primary goal is to hear your ideas and concerns as we develop the plan.

This is difficult news to share ... even more so days after watching with pride as East High represented our District so well in the state basketball finals. It is my hope that through this process we can keep all that is great about East High today and create a better school for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bolgen Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Bolgen Vargas
Superintendent of Schools