

1st Quarter Education

1/22/2021

THE ROME SCHOOL DISTRICT IS INVESTIGATING A TEACHER'S SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS ATTACKING SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP. BRANDON MENDOZA POSTED THE PROFANITY LACED TIRADE EARLIER THIS WEEK, AND IT'S SINCE GONE VIRAL. ROME'S SUPERINTENDENT RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING THE TEACHER'S COMMENTS DON'T REFLECT THE VALUES OF THE DISTRICT, AND THE SITUATION IS BEING ADDRESSED BY LEGAL COUNSEL. MENDOZA DELETED HIS FACEBOOK ACCOUNT SOMETIME YESTERDAY.

1/26/2021

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS LOOKING TO CANCEL THIS YEAR'S STANDARDIZED TESTS. FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW OFFICIALS HAVE REQUESTED A WAIVER FROM WASHINGTON, CITING THE UNEVEN RESULTS OF REMOTE INSTRUCTION DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. THE STATE'S TEACHERS UNION AND SOME ADVOCACY GROUPS HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR THE CANCELLATION. THE ANNUAL MATH AND E-L-A TESTS EVALUATE STUDENTS IN GRADES THREE THROUGH EIGHT AND ARE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW. LAST YEAR EVERY STATE RECEIVED A WAIVER.

2/8/2021

NEW YORK'S EDUCATION AID SHOULD BE GOING TO THE STUDENTS THAT NEED IT MOST. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM EDUCATION ADVOCATES. THEY WANT THE STATE'S FOUNDATION AID FORMULA TWEAKED SO THAT THE POOREST DISTRICTS, LIKE UTICA AND ROME, RECEIVE MORE FUNDING. GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PROPOSED BUDGET CONSOLIDATES MULTIPLE STATE-RUN AID PROGRAMS INTO A SINGLE POOL OF MONEY. BUT IT DISPERSES PAYMENTS BASED ON WHAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE ALREADY GETTING, LEADING TO MASSIVE DISPARITIES IN FUNDING.

2/9/2021

SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS NEW YORK ARE SEEING THEIR ENROLLMENTS PLUNGE, EVEN AS UTICA'S CONTINUES TO CLIMB. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE EMPIRE CENTER. THE STUDY FOUND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE HAS FALLEN TO LOWS NOT SEEN SINCE THE 1970S. EXPERTS SAY THAT'S A SYMPTOM OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING NEW YORK. UTICA IS ONE PLACE THE TREND IS MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, THANKS TO THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN ENTERING THE DISTRICT.

2/23/2021

AFTER BEING SHUT DOWN FOR CLOSE TO A YEAR, SCHOOLS COULD FINALLY BEGIN REOPENING FOR FULL TIME IN PERSON INSTRUCTION. STARTING TOMORROW

DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE WILL START TRACKING HOW MANY OF THEIR TEACHERS AND STAFF HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS. THAT MARKS THE FIRST PHASE OF PLANS TO SEND CHILDREN BACK TO THE CLASSROOM. MOST SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN RELYING ON REMOTE INSTRUCTION SINCE MARCH OF LAST YEAR, BUT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PARENTS ARE ASKING FOR THE RETURN OF FACE TO FACE CLASSES.

2/25/2021

FIVE BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S WHAT ADVOCATES SAY THE STATE NEEDS TO INVEST IN EDUCATION TO MAKE UP FOR FUNDING SHORTFALLS. WITH JUST OVER A MONTH TO GO BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET THEY'RE PRESSURING THE LEGISLATURE TO SPEND THE EXTRA MONEY. AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK THEY'RE PLANNING ON TAKING THE STATE TO COURT TO GET A HOLD OF THE CASH. GOVERNOR CUOMO HAS RESISTED CALLS FOR MORE SPENDING, SAYING NEW YORK IS ALREADY LAYING OUT MORE PER STUDENT THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE NATION.

3/24/2021

WITHIN WEEKS MOST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL RESUME REGULAR CLASSES. THAT COMES AFTER NEW GUIDANCE FOR THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL ALLOWS THREE FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING BETWEEN MASKED STUDENTS. THE AREA'S TWO LARGEST DISTRICTS, ROME AND UTICA, ARE SCHEDULED TO REOPEN APRIL TWELFTH WITH MEASURE TO PROTECT STUDENTS IN SCHOOL AND ON BUSES. BUT NOT EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH THE REOPENING. SOME TEACHERS UNIONS SAY SCHOOLS SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL BETTER MEASURES ARE IN PLACE.

3/29/2021

UTICA SCHOOLS COULD BE IN LINE FOR TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING. OFFICIALS IN ALBANY HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO FUND THE STATE'S POOREST SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE'S FOUNDATION AID FORMULA. THAT EQUATION PRIORITIZES MONEY TO POOR DISTRICTS LIKE UTICA, BUT IT WAS ROLLED BACK OVER A DECADE AGO IN RESPONSE TO THE RECESSION. THE RETURN OF FOUNDATION AID IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE OVER 4-POINT-2 BILLION DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FUNDING.