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**Duffy wants to restore funds for after-school programs in Rochester**

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Erica Bryant

Mayor Robert Duffy plans to restore funding to city-operated recreational programs that are housed at 11 city schools. A new partnership between the city and the Rochester School District means that participants will soon be spending less time on "boondoggle and basketball" and more time with their books.

Duffy's original \$478 million budget proposal called for the elimination of after-school recreational programs that the city operates at schools during the school year and the summer. The cuts would have affected about 2,000 students.

At a Thursday news conference, Duffy said he will continue funding these programs until the city and the district work out a new partnership model and funding plan that will give these recreation and after-school programs a more academic focus.

District and city leaders will be working on plans for such a model this summer and will examine other cities' efforts. On Thursday, Duffy cited the Providence After School Alliance as a model he admires. This private-public coalition provides a variety of educational, cultural, musical, physical and social after-school opportunities in Providence, R.I.

In the meantime, funding will be restored to after-school programs at schools 2, 6, 17, 28, 41, 42, 43, 46, 52 and East and Madison high schools. District spokesman Tom Petronio said that currently the main purpose of these programs is recreation.

Brizard called the hours between 3 and 6 p.m. "critical" for city students and stressed the importance of having academic intervention services available for students who attend public recreation programs.

His proposed Rochester School District budget includes more than \$13 million for after-school programming, including extended day and week programs for all high schools.

School Board President Malik Evans praised the plan, saying that aligning recreation and academics is necessary if Rochester students are to compete in the world economy.

"Our old model of open basketball and boondoggle without a connection to educational learning is not preparing our children for their future jobs," Duffy said in a statement. "We want the city's recreation and youth services to contribute positively to our graduation rates."