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The 2020 Census- A Complete Count Matters for Public Education

Genesee Valley
PTA

Monroe County
Federation
of Teachers

NYS United
Teachers

Monroe County
Association
of School
Business Officials

Monroe County
Council of School
Superintendents

Monroe County
School Boards
Association

Rochester City
School District

School
Administrators
Association
of NYS

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The U.S. Constitution requires Congress to conduct a census once every 10 years, to count as accurately and completely as possible every person living in the United States, including non-citizens and children.

Data from the census is important for public education because it:

- **Determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.** The House helps determine federal education policy and appropriations.
- **Determines the annual allocation of \$675 billion dollars in federal funding** (Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8 Housing, Special Education Grants, S-CHIP, Title I and Title II Grants, National School Lunch Program, WIC, Head Start, Foster Care, Health Center Programs). **Many of these programs promote student wellness and mental health which enhances achievement in school. Title II grants are critical funding sources local districts use for teacher training and retention.**
- **Determines the distribution of both federal and state aid to education. Inaccuracies in the census data will result in critical losses of education aid from both streams since federal dollars SUPPLEMENT state monies.**
- **Adversely affects students when undercounts occur. Populations at heightened risk of being undercounted include children, non-English speakers, immigrants, people with disabilities, rural and urban**

communities and those without access to the Internet.

The Census Bureau will begin mailing invitations to respond to the census on March 12. Follow up reminders will be sent the following two weeks. Households not responding to the census by April 8 will receive a third reminder with a paper questionnaire. After April 27, a census taker will canvass non-responders at their home. April 1 is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census and will be celebrated with events across the country. **When completing the census, responder are asked to include everyone living in your home as of April 1, 2020.**

By December 2020 the Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law. **March 31, 2021** the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states required for redrawing legislative districts.

School leadership and personnel are often considered trusted individuals within a given community and can encourage and assist households with responding to the census. Schools can provide needed technology and assistance for on-line access to the survey.

The census bureau has promotional and content materials prepared to help partners such as schools. These include flyers, posters, in-language assistance, and drop in articles, social media links and other graphics available at www.census.gov/partners/2020materials. NYSUT is offering curriculum, resources and activities for use in classrooms to encourage participation in the census.

The Monroe County Education Coalition supports a complete and accurate count for the 2020 Census.

We hope that you join us in this important pursuit.