

East High plan gets approval from NY

State also gives some funding

JUSTIN MURPHY

STAFF WRITER

The Rochester School District this week got final state approval for the East High School-University of Rochester marriage and a \$200,000 wedding gift to go along with it.

The one-time shot of cash from the New York State Education Department came in the form of a school improvement funding award. UR will take over East starting this summer.

In a statement, school board president Van White said: "The Board of Education believes that the state education department's final approval ... represents a pivotal turning point for East and a major step forward in our ongoing efforts to transform our entire district one school at a time."

The \$200,000 is in addition to \$10.1 million in East funding that Superintendent Bolgen Vargas requested last month while testifying to the Legislature in Albany.

Also this week, the district handed out 34,000 free books — one for every student — in advance of February break, which begins Monday.

The books came from a district warehouse and included leftovers from previous giveaways. The distribution was part of Vargas' Operation Literacy and is in line with his stated goal of helping students, especially younger ones, read better.

JMURPHY7@DemocratandChronicle.com [Twitter.com/CitizenMurphy](https://twitter.com/CitizenMurphy)