

# CITY NEWSPAPER

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## EDUCATION: City's school article needed balance

By [Readers](#) on November 15, 2011

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As authors of CGR's report on new schools in the Rochester City School District, we'd like to thank City Newspaper and Tim Macaluso for a generally balanced and accurate article ("Rochester's New Schools," November 9). The one area we felt was perhaps not fully reflective of our work was the section on expectations observed in classrooms. While it's true we saw low-level expectations and work in some classes, we also saw very high-level classes, as reflected in the full paragraph of our report:

<http://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/news/articles/2011/11/EDUCATION-Citys-new-schools-a-mix-of-promise-and-caution/>

"In sitting in on classes, CGR saw what we felt was a wide range of expectations for students, sometimes even within the same school. At the high end of the spectrum were classes where students were asked to do challenging work requiring higher level skills such as making judgments, supporting arguments, identifying trends, and where students were encouraged to take chances and held accountable for their answers. At the low end, we saw classes where students were allowed not to work, answers were freely given to students if they raised their hands, work was very low-level and little or no responsibility for learning was placed upon students. And there were many classes in between the two extremes." (You can read the full report [here](#).)

For CGR, it's critical to reflect the whole picture, because we want schools to continue to be open to the kind of observation and feedback that helps drive growth and improvement, as the leaders and staff of these five new schools were. The need to encourage models of supportive, helpful observation and feedback on classroom/school practices is especially critical given the current climate around evaluation and accountability.

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