The Eastman School of Music’s Diversity Committee includes representatives from all parts of the school including the dean; academic, student affairs, and community education administrators; and faculty. Ongoing activities include enhancing the school’s diverse climate through the Departmental Diversity Initiative, various student-led events, community outreach, and new student recruitment. Additionally, the school is developing a plan to host a national conference on diversity for schools of music.

One component of the Eastman School’s diversity initiatives is the Eastman Pathways program, a part of the William Warfield Partnership between the Eastman School and the Rochester City School District. Named in honor of the world-renowned bass-baritone and graduate of both the city schools and Eastman, the William Warfield Partnership provides diverse music opportunities for students in the Rochester City Schools.

Students begin instrumental instruction in the city schools and become eligible for the Pathways program as they advance. Students are able to audition for the Pathways program in grades 5–11, with preference given to middle school children. Successful students are enrolled in weekly private lessons in voice or a musical instrument at Eastman. Students are expected to practice diligently and show commitment to the Pathways program. In addition to participating in their home school music ensemble, students participate in the annual All City Concert, solo festivals sponsored by Monroe County and New York State Music Associations, and recitals at Eastman.

Up to 70 students participate in Eastman Pathways each year. Interested Pathways students may also elect to participate in one of the Eastman precollege, two-year diploma programs by taking additional music theory and ensemble courses.

Pathways students who meet Eastman’s rigorous undergraduate admission standards are eligible to receive up to a full-tuition scholarship based on financial need. Pathways students who are accepted into the Eastman School agree to return to city schools during their undergraduate years to serve as role models, to mentor, and to teach. Information about the program is available at www.esm.rochester.edu/community/pathways/.