



**For Immediate Release: March 4, 2024**

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**Stand on your Soapbox! First-Ever Districtwide Student Voice Event**  
*RCSD Students Engage in Project Soapbox, Youth-Driven Civic Engagement*

**Who:**

RCSD high school students

**What:**

Project Soapbox speeches

**When:**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 12 p.m.

**Where:**

Strong Museum of Play  
1 Manhattan Square Drive  
Rochester, NY 14607

**Details:**

High school students are engaging in the first-ever Districtwide Project Soapbox event. Project Soapbox is a collaborative effort with the Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan organization that develops youth to be empowered, informed, and active citizens who promote a just and equitable society.

Students will deliver a two-minute speech on an issue that matters to them. In these speeches, students identify topics such as mental health, the school-to-prison pipeline, healthcare, trauma, violence, and poverty and how it has impacted their lives and the lives of their families. Teachers have worked with students to research and develop ideas around their selected topic. They have also taught students about the structure of a speech, how to make it more interesting, and how best to deliver it.

In previous years, students have participated in this event at their individual schools. This year, the District is bringing those exemplary speeches together in one place in this youth-driven engagement that highlights student voice.

RCSD's event is part of Mikva Challenge's nationwide program that provides students in cities across the country a platform to speak out about the issues that are important to them. Select students from each city-wide Project Soapbox event, including the Rochester City School District, will be invited to participate in Mikva Challenge's [Soapbox Nation](#).