



For Immediate Release: February 13, 2024

Media Contact: Marisol Ramos-Lopez, 585-455-2844, Marisol.Lopez@rcsdk12.org

RCSD Students Get on Their “Soapboxes” for Youth-Driven Civic Engagement Event

Who:

Students from Northeast College Preparatory High School
Isaiah Santiago, Commissioner of the Rochester Board of Education
Sarah Clark, New York State Assemblywoman

What:

Project Soapbox speeches

When:

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

Where:

Northeast College Preparatory High School
4115 Lake Avenue
Rochester, NY 14612

Details:

Students in 12th grade at Northeast College Preparatory High School will be participating in a “Project Soapbox” speech showcase that encourages student voice.

On Thursday, February 15, 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.

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. 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 citywide Project Soapbox event, including the Rochester City School District, will be invited to participate in Mikva Challenge’s [Soapbox Nation](#).

Project Soapbox aligns with the District’s social studies curriculum, and there will be a Districtwide showcase of Soapbox speeches that will be held on Tuesday, March 5 at the Strong Museum of Play.