



For Immediate Release: March 10, 2025

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Stand on Your Soapbox! Districtwide Student Voice Event

Who:

RCSD middle and high school students
Community partners

What:

Project Soapbox speeches

When:

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Where:

RCSD’s Central Office
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Details:

Project Soapbox is a partnership with the Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering youth to become informed, active citizens working toward a more just and equitable society.

During this event, RCSD students will deliver two-minute speeches on issues that matter most to them. Topics include:

- Mental Health
- The school-to-prison pipeline
- Healthcare
- Trauma
- Violence
- Poverty

In their speeches, students identify pressing challenges and propose meaningful solutions for improving their schools and communities.

Leading up to the event, teachers guided students through the research and development of their chosen topics and crafting and delivering compelling speeches.

This marks the second year the Rochester City School District has brought together these exemplary student speeches in a Districtwide showcase. Previously, students presented their speeches at their individual schools.

RCSD’s event is part of Mikva Challenge’s national program, providing a platform for students across the country to raise their voices on issues that matter to them. Select students from Rochester’s event will be invited to participate in Mikva Challenge’s Soapbox Nation, a nationwide forum that amplifies youth perspectives.