Message to schools: your students would like to host a SpeakUp forum

Student Voice is about seeking students’ ideas on what helps strengthen their school communities and ensuring all student voices are heard. Across Ontario, SpeakUp forums are helping students get more engaged in learning and their school community.

What is SpeakUp?
Students who feel a sense of belonging and who participate in their learning are more likely to achieve success and graduate. Student Voice initiatives provide opportunities to learn directly from students what actions strengthens their sense of belonging and inspires their participation. SpeakUp provides Ontario students with opportunities to share their ideas.

There are several ways students can SpeakUp:

Regional Student Forums
The SpeakUp team travels all over the province to listen to students in Grades 7 – 12 share their ideas about issues that matter to them.

Minister’s Student Advisory Council
The Council consists of 60 students from Grades 7 – 12 across Ontario. Council members meet with the Minister of Education twice, take part in discussions and act as ambassadors of the SpeakUp initiative in their schools and communities.

SpeakUp Projects
Across Ontario, SpeakUp projects are giving students the opportunity to make a difference in their classroom, school and community. Grants are available for student-led projects. More than 3,000 projects have been funded to date.

What’s New!

SpeakUp in a Box is now available so that students can host their own SpeakUp forum in their school or the local community centre.
Hosting a *SpeakUp* forum

*SpeakUp in a Box* is a resource that enables students to host their own *SpeakUp* forums anytime, anywhere. Once we receive a request from interested students and schools, we will send this resource including all the supplies required to host a *SpeakUp* forum with 30 students. We will also be available to help with any questions or concerns. The forum takes approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours and asks students to discuss the following questions:

1. What does it look like when you are engaged in your learning?
2. What holds you back from being engaged in your learning?
3. What actions can *adults* take to improve how education looks and feels?
4. What actions can *students* take to improve how education looks and feels?

What we need from your school

The *SpeakUp* Team will provide everything that your school needs to speak up. All that is required is an adult from your school to work with the host student to assist with the forum, including recruiting students, finding space to host the forum, securing AV equipment and being present during the forum. We look forward to working with you and your school to help students become more engaged in education. For more information, please contact studentengagement@ontario.ca.