



Mikva Challenge Educator Advisory Council

2025-26 School Year

Advisory Council overview: The Mikva Challenge Educator Advisory Council is a leadership opportunity for experienced Mikva-trained educators who have demonstrated a deep commitment to empowering young people through real-world civic learning. As part of this cohort, Advisory Council members serve as a steering committee that helps shape Mikva’s school-based programming by offering feedback, sharing best practices, and mentoring new educators. Council members work in close partnership with Mikva staff, participating in bimonthly professional learning communities (PLCs) focused on innovation, collaboration, and leadership in civic education.

Through this role, educators help strengthen Mikva’s mission to close the civic empowerment gap and ensure that all students—especially those from underrepresented communities—have access to transformative civic learning. Advisory Council members model what it means to center youth voice and action in the classroom while supporting their peers in doing the same. Together, they help build a network of classrooms across Chicago where students are prepared to be informed, engaged, and active participants in our democracy.

Overarching objectives:

1. Educators will serve as thought partners to Mikva Challenge by providing strategic feedback and insight to strengthen school-based civic programming and resources.
2. Educators will model and share best practices that elevate youth voice, foster inclusive civic learning environments, and deepen student engagement with real-world issues.
3. Educators will mentor and support Mikva Educator Fellows, helping to build a collaborative professional community that empowers teachers to navigate civic education confidently and effectively.
4. Educators will expand their civic leadership by engaging with community organizers, elected officials, and fellow educators to inform and inspire student-centered civic action across Chicago.

Mikva Challenge

Eligibility requirements:

1. In order to be considered for the Advisory Council, applicants must have deep multi-year experience with Mikva Challenge curricula and programming.

Fellowship requirements:

1. Synchronous sessions:

- Attend 1-2 day summer kickoff workshop (in person)
- Attend 4 bimonthly synchronous sessions via Zoom from September 2025 - April 2026. In order to receive the stipend, educators can miss no more than 1 session (recordings will be sent to them).

2. Mentorship: Provide virtual mentorship/support to Mikva Fellows on their showcase projects.

3. Best practices share: Do one “best practices” presentation/share to either the Mikva Educator Fellows cohort or the Advisory Council. This presentation will demonstrate an example of how the educator puts Mikva into practice in their classroom/school community.

4. Optional, but encouraged, activities:

- Conduct a classroom- or school-level Soapbox and send students to the citywide Soapbox event.
- Facilitate a preliminary room at the citywide Soapbox event.

Upon completion of the Advisory Council term:

- Participants will receive a \$1,200 stipend (\$600 per semester).
- Participants will receive a Mikva Educator digital badge.

If you have questions after reading the eligibility requirements and Advisory Council details, please reach out to Rebecca Coven, Director of School-Based Programming IL at rebeccac@mikvachallenge.org.