



 The **Campaign for Educational Equity**
TEACHERS COLLEGE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Educational Equity ACTION!

*a joint project of Epic Theatre Ensemble
and the Campaign for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University*

Project Description

Students are the stakeholder group most directly affected by educational inequities. In New York, they are also the group most often sidelined in decision making about the allocation of resources for public education.

Through *Educational Equity ACTION!*, talented New York City public high school students are "flipping the script," stepping into the spotlight, and using theatre to expand youth leadership in the movement for true educational equity.

Since 2014, researchers at the *Campaign for Educational Equity, Teachers College, Columbia University*, and professional artists from *Epic Theatre Ensemble* have mentored over two dozen *Epic NEXT* students in applying critical-thinking skills, creativity, and a newfound understanding of educational rights to create original performances designed to highlight educational inequities and to spur action.

This student-centered, arts-based approach to social analysis and education advocacy has received rave reviews from a range of audiences—from high school students to parent leaders to members of New York State's Board of Regents.

The students' latest play, *10467*, asks audiences, "Why do we stand down when we should stand up in the battle against educational injustice? And how do we conceive and construct a new value system where someone's zip code doesn't damage their educational opportunities?"

See it for yourself! Be informed. Be inspired. Be empowered!

For more information about or to support *Educational Equity ACTION!*, please email Joe Rogers, Jr. (rogers2@tc.columbia.edu) or Ron Russell (ronrussell@epictheatreensemble.org).

The Campaign for Educational Equity (CEE) is a nonprofit research and policy center at Teachers College, Columbia University, that champions the right of all children to meaningful educational opportunity and works to define and secure the full range of resources, supports, and services necessary to provide this opportunity to disadvantaged children.

Epic Theatre Ensemble creates bold work with and for diverse communities that promotes vital discourse and social change by inspiring students to be creative and engaged citizens, presenting compelling topics that transform the way people think, and collaborating with artists, students and thought leaders to produce plays about key issues. Epic NEXT is Epic's youth ensemble, an extraordinary group of thinkers, artists, and collaborators who are apprenticing with Epic to become America's future arts leaders.