

Getting to 'Y'

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAINING DAY

October 22, 2018 • Capitol Plaza, Montpelier



Lamoille Union Middle School students at their Data Analysis Retreat.

Students serve as leaders in the Getting to 'Y': Students bring Meaning to their Youth Risk Behavior Survey initiative, as they take steps to strengthen their school and community based on their findings. There is a wealth of information in the biennial YRBS report on the wellness of young people in our state. What it does not include is a thoughtful and informed analysis of why ('Y') young people are making either wise or unwise choices. There is also no input on what students believe would change these statistics for the better. Who better to tell us than youth themselves, creating an opportunity for young people to take action to shape their own futures?

For the past ten years, leadership teams of students and teachers from 71 Vermont high schools and middle schools have participated in this initiative, which follows an action research model. Teams receive training and support to:

- Organize a day retreat to analyze the data, producing a "Student Executive Summary." This executive summary identifies three strengths, three areas of concern, and a preliminary plan of action, based on an exploration of the root causes of the concerns.
- Host a Community Dialogue Event to share the "Student Executive Summary" with the greater community and lead meaningful multi-generational discussions.

continued next page ▷

◀ continued from previous page

- Combine all that they have learned to frame next steps, which the group then implements and assesses through the year.

Who Should Come

This training is for middle school students and teachers, guidance counselors, or other faculty focusing on school climate. The recommended team composition is 1-2 adults and 6-7 youth. This work will require a strong youth-adult partnership, sustained over the course of the year, to be successful.

Expectations

Teams should come with:

- A commitment to implement all phases of this initiative (data analysis, dialogue event, design and implementation of an action plan, and assessment of impact).
- A willingness to document the work with pictures and written feedback from participants, which will be summarized and shared in a newsletter. This requires a commitment to ongoing communication with the GTY coordinator.

In return, teams can expect:

- An engaging training day and continued support (both virtual and on-site) as their plans unfold.
- A \$200 mini-grant to help underwrite the cost of food and materials for planned events.
- Publication of a spring newsletter capturing the scope of the work.

Check out the GTY manual!

Visit upforlearning.com/images/GTYmanual2015-web.pdf

Format

Phase 1: The orientation day is an interactive day-long workshop. We utilize a training of trainers format, first modeling the materials and tools and then the facilitators reflect on their experience. The day will conclude with team time to plan how each group will begin the initiative design and implementation process.

Phase 2: Teams will return to their home school to conduct a data analysis retreat, host a community dialogue event, develop a plan, and move to action. Teams are encouraged to have regular meetings to manage the implementation process and ensure the success of these efforts.

Cost

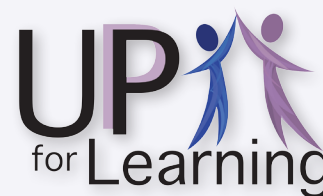
The cost for each school participating in this year-long initiative is \$600. (This is a reduced fee thanks to a generous matching grant from the Vermont Department of Health.)

Logistics & Registration

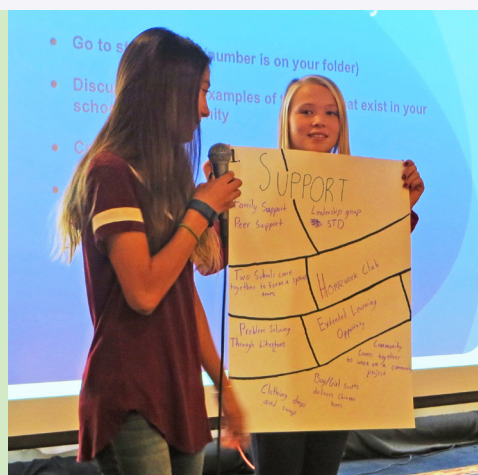
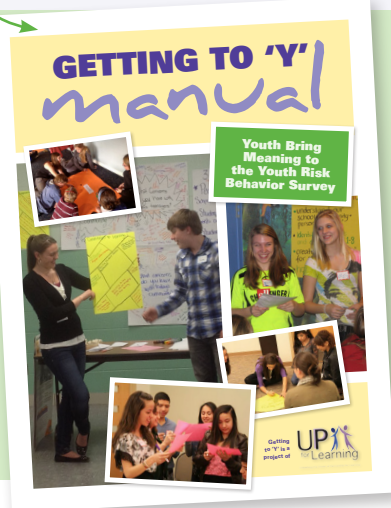
The orientation day will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, 100 State Street, Montpelier, VT. The training will run from 9 am to 1:30 pm, with supported team planning time available until 2:30. Snacks, beverages, and lunch will be provided.

Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis and space is limited.

Registration closes on October 8, 2018. Please register online at tinyurl.com/MS-GTY2018. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Koller at sharon@upforlearning.org.



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning



“The one thing I liked most was learning how I can be a leader and effect a positive change in my community.”

—student participant