

POWER²

Youth and Adults
Shaping Vermont
Education Together

a summit to inform, inspire and move us to action

April 8, 2015 | 9 am–3 pm | Lake Morey Inn and Resort, Fairlee, VT

- What does it look and sound like when **young people partner with adults** as they shape their educational experience?
- How can we **learn from other schools** engaged in similar work to elevate student voice?
- What are our next steps to address the youth-adult relationship in our school, ensuring that both **power and responsibility in learning and education are shared**?

This is a remarkable era of education redesign in Vermont. With the advent of Act 77: Flexible Pathways and new Education Quality Standards, there are unprecedented opportunities for youth to partner with adults as messengers and co-creators of school change.

Personalized learning will require that students assume a far more active role in their learning; it will fundamentally reshape the student-teacher relationship to one of shared responsibility and partnership.

Register for this summit if you would like answers to the key questions in the sidebar to the left. These questions will be explored throughout a highly interactive day which is designed to maximize dialogue, choice, creativity and networking.

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REGISTER
NOW!

[tinyurl.com/
power2conf](http://tinyurl.com/power2conf)



A collaborative effort of UP for Learning, Shelburne Farms, the Partnership for Change, Big Picture Learning, and the School Project Foundation, with support from the Bay & Paul Foundations.



OUR SCHOOLS • OUR COMMUNITIES • OUR FUTURE



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Agenda

8:30–9:00am	Registration
9:00–9:40am	Opening
9:50–11:40am	Morning Sharing Sessions 1 & 2 (with break) to expand the realm of possibility
11:50–12:45	Meaning Making and Lunch
12:45–1:30	Open Space, Dilemma Consultancies, Dialogue
1:40–2:30	KIVA Protocol
2:30–3:00	Closing

Who Should Come

This conference is for high school students, teachers, administrators, school board members, or other individuals partnering in school change efforts.

Logistics & Registration

When & where: April 8, 2015, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Lake Morey Inn and Resort, Fairlee, VT.

Registration: Please register online at tinyurl.com/power2conf.

Snacks, beverages, and lunch provided. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and space is limited.

Cost: \$25 per adult, \$15 per student. Scholarships available by request.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Dezell at erin@upforlearning.com.



MORNING SHARING SESSIONS

Personalizing Learning: What Will That Mean?

With the advent of Act 77, students in Vermont now have the opportunity to work with their teachers, parents/guardians, and community members to design and reflect on their unique learning pathways throughout their education. Come explore ways in which students are engaged in planning and implementing Personalized Learning Plans and reconfiguring “parent night” into more meaningful student-led conferences.

Any Time, Any Place Learning

Schools of the future encourage learning any time and any place. This means both an increase in ways to meet graduation requirements and an increase in the relevance of learning. This sharing session will highlight ways schools are offering varied credit-bearing extended learning opportunities and flexible pathways to graduation.

To Suspend or Restore? That Is the Question

Traditional behavior management systems in high schools often rely on punishments to change behavior, detentions and suspensions being the most common. A number of schools believe that punishment just doesn't work and are embracing a powerful alternative: restorative justice practices. What are the lessons learned when creating this shift in both cultures and practices in Vermont schools?

The Power of Advisories

Both common sense and research tell us that the number of caring individuals any one individual has in his or her life is the most powerful influence on well being. Student-teacher advisories have the potential to strengthen student-teacher relationships as well as create a caring school climate among peers. Hear stories about how students and teachers are transforming advisories from a token time for announcements and homework completion to a valued touchstone for their learning experience throughout high school.

Being Change Agents Now: How to Get Involved

There was a time when students spent their high school years getting ready to be a contributing member of society upon graduation. When young people have the desire, wisdom, and capacity to be change agents *now*, why should they be on hold?

Schools require equal measures of ownership and input from both youth and adults to continuously improve, like any other institution that commits

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to excellence. A number of schools have created credit-bearing courses and other alternative models to involve students actively in change. Come find out more and get started!

Visible Learning: Students as Partners in School Improvement

School remodeling will require that students and teachers talk much more frequently about the process of learning itself, making learning and teaching both more transparent and shared. This is new territory. How are secondary schools including students in continuous improvement in teaching and learning? What are ways that schools are valuing students' feedback in shaping their learning experiences in collaboration with teachers?

Communicating Change: The Story of Shaping Our Future Together

A strong movement for school change needs an equally strong communications campaign — one that engages people in shaping their future together. UP for Learning, Full Frame Communications and the School Project Foundation have joined forces with stakeholders in Vermont to build a movement for 21st-century school redesign. Come hear the story of this statewide effort orchestrated by youth and adults in equal measure.

Transforming School Governance

Many student councils have been seeking ways to attend to school climate and also be involved in other significant decisions impacting their school. Some have created structures to mirror the democratic process. Come learn about models of student governance that impact all areas of school life, including classroom learning and school policy.

End-of-Year Studies

For years, many colleges have integrated January terms into their course options to allow for intensive and high-interest learning opportunities for students. A number of Vermont high schools are following suit, implementing end-of-year study programs that offer unconventional, project-based, and hands-on mini-courses. These highly engaging experiences draw on student and teacher interests and culminate in presentations for learning. How are they designed? What do students and teachers say about this new means of learning?

Proficiency-Based Learning: Shifting to 'Yet'

"I haven't learned it . . . yet." The new push toward Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) moves from a traditional grading system and seat time in classrooms, to a focus on mastering content based on the time it takes for the student to demonstrate proficiency. This requirement will take effect in Vermont beginning with the graduating class of 2020. How are schools including youth in the preparation and implementation of steps to move toward PBGRs?

Students as Partners in Community Initiatives

The best way to build skills for college, career, and citizenship is through expanding the learning of students to embrace real-life experiences in a real-world environment. We will explore how schools have expanded learning opportunities across the community to cultivate relationships between schools and community partners, including local businesses, nonprofits, colleges, civic and arts organizations. Hear how others are expanding the walls of the school to include community partners in their evolution.

Education for Sustainability

Improving the quality of life — economically, socially, and environmentally — for all, now and for future generations, begins with education. In a sustainable school, the campus and the community are extensions of the classroom. We will be exploring how different schools are integrating Education for Sustainability (EFS) into their practice through placed-based education, service learning, and project-based learning.

