Values & Guiding Principles

SHARE RESPONSIBILITY: The process of change must be transparent and must be driven by adults and youth in partnership.

START FROM STRENGTHS: Students and educators have the wisdom and capacity to orchestrate change. Beginning with what's working provides hope and energizes a community to embrace change.

ASSUME POSITIVE INTENTIONS: Educators truly want students to thrive. Young people are ready and able to commit to their learning and be involved in its design.

SEEK EQUITY & JUSTICE: The human need to be valued and heard is universal. *All* young people have a right to a meaningful and engaging education.

CREATE OPEN DIALOGUE: Deep conversation is central to changing school cultures. Young people are particularly able initiators of this dialogue, creating a shared vision for education and the learning process.

EMPLOY DATA TO DRIVE CHANGE: Research is a vitally important way to build credibility between youth and adults. When a community works together to make meaning of their own data, they are strengthened by what they learn and emboldened to take action.

Please be in touch.

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UP for Learning

Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

Our mission is to shift the youth-adult relationship at the heart of education to partnership, and to increase youth agency. This ensures that all young people have opportunities, support, knowledge, and skills to pursue active roles in their learning, their lives, and their community.

UP for Learning helps educational institutions across the country fully engage students in their own learning and in school redesign. We utilize research-based models that reshape the student-teacher relationship to one of shared ownership and shared responsibility. UP offers strategies, tools, and ongoing coaching to ensure that learning is engaging for everyone and youth are fully empowered.

We envision a time when all youth will take responsibility for their own learning by collaborating with adults in the educational system to reach their own goals.

Core Initiatives

YOUTH AND ADULTS TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS TOGETHER

fosters engagement in learning by increasing rigor, relevance, relationships, and shared responsibility (4Rs). Based on the 4Rs framework, student and teacher teams use Action Research to understand issues that impact learning from multiple perspectives and then become agents of change.

GETTING TO 'Y'

is an opportunity for students to take a lead in bringing meaning to their own Youth Risk Behavior Survey data. They identify strengths and concerns, host a community dialogue event to solicit adult perspectives, and identify a priority action as the focus of their subsequent change efforts.
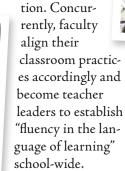
COMMUNICATING SCHOOL REDESIGN

engages youth-adult teams as a school's communications hub to build public understanding and support for educational redesign. CSR employs an evidence-based communications approach called strategic framing and is built on an action research model. The teams construct campaigns to effectively engage all sectors of the community in dialogue about why schools are changing.

MINDSET, METACOGNITION & MOTIVATION

supports youth as peer-to-peer messengers who share the latest research on growth mindsets, metacognition (how the brain learns) and motivation. Concurrently, faculty align their classroom practices accordingly and become teacher leaders to establish "fluency in the language of learning" school-wide.

NATIONAL YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIP ADVOCACY

UP engages in policy advocacy, hosts conferences, participates in national school change organizations, offers keynotes and workshops, serves as a research learning laboratory, and pursues publication opportunities.

Partnership creates *ownership.* Ownership sparks *motivation.* Motivation drives *learning.*