

UP for Learning

Unleashing the Power of Youth-Adult Partnership

WE MUST EMPOWER YOUTH by ensuring every young person is known and valued in their community, has a sense of purpose, and has the ability to shape their own lives and the lives of others.



WHY?

Vermont is losing the potential of too many of our young people by allowing a **widening opportunity gap** to limit their possibilities.



RESULT:

- ↑ **Disengagement** from learning
- ↑ Sense of **HOPELESSNESS**
- ↓ Decrease in **CRITICAL LIFE SKILL** development
- ↓ Decrease in high school completion and **POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS**
- ↓ Decrease in **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

“Fostering student voice—empowering youth to express their opinions and influence their educational experiences so that they feel they have a stake in the outcomes—is **one of the most powerful tools schools have to increase learning.**”

—Toshalis & Nakkula,
Motivation, Engagement, &
Student Voice, 2012

UP'S ANSWER...

SINCE 2008...

UP has worked with **44%** of Vermont middle schools and **95%** of Vermont high schools in all 14 counties

Nearly **2,700** youth have taken on active leadership roles in at least one of UP's initiatives.

UP has trained student leaders through **334 programs** in a total of **113 Vermont schools**

Over **110** educators have completed an UP graduate course.

UP for Learning empowers youth to *innovate, collaborate & lead*

UP for Learning is a nonprofit dedicated to amplifying the role of youth as partners and agents of change in education to ensure that youth:

- **Own their learning**
- **Participate actively in school change**
- **Have personal power and purpose**
- **Possess leadership skills**
- **Are civically engaged**

To achieve these outcomes, UP for Learning crafts innovative, student-centered education initiatives and supports schools with customized training, coaching, graduate courses, professional development, and online resources. We are an active contributor to national and international efforts to put students at the center of their education.

“I was reminded of how much power we have as individuals to **change our own world and the world of others...for the better.**”















—UP youth participant



A Decade of Growth

YEAR 1

YEAR 11

	4 high school teams engaged in change work		45 high school & middle school teams engaged in change work
	Served schools in 4 of 14 counties		Served schools in 12 of 14 counties
	32 youth involved as change agents		519 youth involved as change agents
	1 initiative		7 initiatives
	0 graduate courses		9 graduate courses
	1 faculty founder		6 faculty
	An operating budget of \$60,000		An operating budget of over \$500,000

“When people ask me for an example of high-quality work on student voice and youth-adult partnerships, I always send them to UP for Learning. It is the premier nonprofit in the nation that draws upon evidence-based practice and research to carefully design projects aimed at improving schools and empowering young people.”

—Dr. Dana Mitra, Pennsylvania State University, national leader in youth-adult partnership research and practices

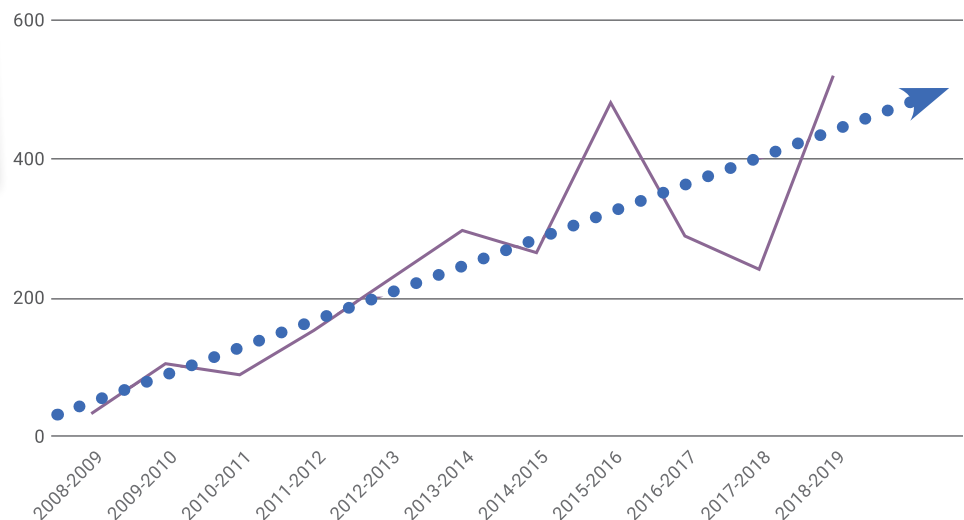


UP for Learning spearheaded the **International Seminar on Amplifying Student Voice & Partnership** for 3 years, convening 29 youth, 43 higher education professionals, and 52 nonprofit leaders from 18 states and 5 countries.

Awarded the New England Secondary School Consortium's **2016 VT Champion of Education**, nominated by the VT Agency of Education.

A DECADE OF UP STUDENT LEADERS

UP for Learning has trained over 2,700 student leaders in the past decade, with a record 519 student leaders in 2018-19 alone!



“UP’s M3 initiative **changed the culture of our school**. Assignments become opportunities, not obligations; challenges are embraced, not avoided; and mistakes are viewed as steps to growth, not signs of failure.”

—M3 teacher advisor



Communicating School Redesign ♦ 6 years

Youth-adult teams systematically build public understanding and support for school redesign.



Getting to 'Y' ♦ 11 years

GTY youth teams take the lead to promote the healthy development and resilience of their peers based on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data.



M3: Mindset, Metacognition & Motivation ♦ 7 years

Youth peer-to-peer mentors and messengers share the latest research on how the brain learns, as teachers align their practices with this research.



Youth & Adults Transforming Schools Together ♦ 11 years

YATST teams use Action Research to understand issues that impact learning from multiple perspectives and become agents of change.



NEW: Emerging Leader Forum

Young people who have not yet assumed leadership roles partner with adult mentors to engage in school change efforts, building their capacity as innovators and leaders.

NEW: Transforming School Culture through Restorative Practices

Youth and adults design, implement, and assess restorative practices in their middle or high school.

NEW: Personal Power & Purpose through Partnership

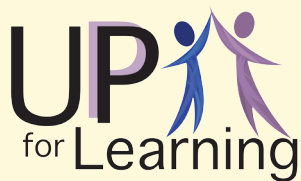
Self-awareness, effective communication, and self-advocacy in learning are built through a year-long, project-based advisory curriculum.

PLUS...
7 custom-designed initiatives in 2018.



"Students who believe they have a voice in school are **seven times more likely to be academically motivated** than students who do not believe they have a voice in school."

—Russell Quaglia, Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations



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.

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.

VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Share Responsibility
- Start from Strengths
- Assume Positive Intentions
- Seek Equity & Justice
- Create Open Dialogue
- Employ Data to Drive Change

FY2018 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

Contractors: 11%

Operations: 17%

Program: 18%

UP faculty: 54%

REVENUE

Reserve: 3.4%

Government grant: 9.6%

Program: 33%

Foundations: 54%



The support of **14** foundations and organizations since 2008 validates the value and potential of this work.

SUPPORTERS & COLLABORATORS

“I think P4 is important if for no other reason than it challenges the way we interact with each other, **guiding and unpacking our individuality with a framework that is all-inclusive and never biased.**”

—Williamstown Middle School educator, P4 pilot year 2018–19

