



YOUTH & ADULTS transforming SCHOOLS TOGETHER



"I now know that education is a collaborative process between students and adults working together. ... **I know that meaningful action can be taken by anyone** and that [it] is an important part of democracy. ... I want to learn more about the way Vermont's education system works and how it could work better. I also want to learn how to take national action from a small state's perspective."

—Student reflection



Today's workforce demands different skills and knowledge than were needed in the past. By bringing youth and adults together to elevate youth voice and youth-adult partnership in learning and decision-making, we can deliver on the deep, powerful learning required to meet 21st-century challenges.

REACH

Since 2008, YATST has worked with **45% of Vermont high schools**, including two Career and Technology Centers.

WHY YATST?

For youth, working closely with adults toward shared goals seeds the skills and confidence for lifelong learning and civic engagement. For adults, working closely with youth creates the

opportunity to learn from the insights and unique perspectives of youth, often

renewing their professional sense of purpose and shifting teaching toward more student-centered practices.

HOW DOES YATST WORK?

YATST teams utilize the 4 Rs — Rigor, Relevance, Relationship, and Shared Responsibility — as a research-based framework to understand what youth

and adults experience in school. They facilitate dialogue to identify desired changes and build community consensus for action. Youth and adults work together to co-create an education that is challenging, relevant, based on strong student-teacher relationships, and where the responsibility for learning is shared by all. The Participatory Action Research Cycle guides this process.

Relationship

Strong student-teacher relationships exist, leading to learning tailored to the student's goals. The teacher serves as guide and facilitator, rather than "the expert."

Rigor

High expectations for all leads to challenging curriculum. This helps students master content that is complex, provocative and challenging.

Shared Responsibility

Students and teachers both actively participate in the learning process and share in decision making.

Relevance

Connections are made between course content and previous learning, learners' lives and their goals.



This group, YATST, can make a big change. And if you stay with it, **it can make a change in you!**

—Student reflection



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

For more info about YATST, contact Harry Frank: harry@upforlearning.org



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



YATST COMPONENTS

- UP for Learning faculty expertise and coaching
- Curriculum resources and materials
- Program orientation, advanced trainings and collaborative work days

COST

- Full Member Schools (first three years of partnership) \$6,500
- Alumni Schools (ongoing partnership starting year four) \$2,500
- Adults can enroll in the YATST graduate seminar for 3 credits through UP and Southern New Hampshire University (\$1,992), or up to 45 professional development hours toward recertification (\$1,656).

YATST is an initiative of

UP for Learning

A nonprofit organization amplifying the role of youth as partners & agents of change in education

UP for Learning works to:

- Ensure students **own their learning** and **participate actively** in school change,
- Create **engaging learning environments** where all students thrive,
- Elevate **youth personal power and purpose**, and
- Develop **leadership skills** and promote lifelong **civic engagement**.

“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 of Student Aspirations, 2014

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. In addition, we are an active contributor to national and international efforts to integrate student-centered practices in education.

“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.”

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

Since 2008, UP has trained more than **2,600 student leaders** in **113 Vermont schools** through **334 programs**.

