An opportunity for upper elementary to high school youth to facilitate lessons and activities with younger elementary grade students about how their brains learn.

In the M3 Mastermind Mentors initiative, youth mentors and their adult partners participate in a one day training on the key concepts of growth mindset & self-talk. This background knowledge is interspersed with examples from a toolkit of ideas that they bring back to use with younger students (K-3).

After the training, Mastermind Mentors and their adult team members prepare and practice what they learned from the toolkit. Over the course of several weeks, mentors team up with younger students and share how learning happens. Mentors and their adult advocates debrief their experience, and celebrate their accomplishments.

**Adult Roles**

Adult Mastermind Mentor partners and guides in this effort:

- Take part in a 1-hour webinar in advance of the training to orient themselves to the initiative components
- Negotiate elementary school visitation options
- Recruit students and prepare them for the training workshop
- Provide ongoing support for mentor visit preparation and debriefing for at least five elementary school visits
- Celebrate at conclusion of effort!
- Reflect upon and document the process

Adults earn 15 hours of professional development time for these efforts.

**Youth Roles**

Youth Mastermind Mentors in this effort:

- Attend a full day training
- Participate in regular meetings to prepare and debrief at least five visits
- Conduct at least 5 elementary school visits with mentee or small group
- Reflect upon their experience.
UP for Learning will provide:

- Initial webinar
- Training day including Mastermind Mentor Toolkits and lunch
- Ongoing virtual or on-site support

Logistics

Cost: $1,200 for a team of up to 16 (this is a reduced fee thanks to a generous matching grant from the Vermont Department of Health). If you would like this training for a group larger than 16, please contact UP for Learning to explore on-site training opportunities.

“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

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.

Mastermind Mentors is an initiative of

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.