



Customized Support

from UP for Learning



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

“The beauty of Collaborative Peer Review was being able to interface with teachers and students in other schools, giving constructive observations in a well-structured format, as well as taking a more objective look at the strengths of our own school. Even today, a few years later, we are reaping the benefit from initiatives that came out of the process for Otter Valley.”

—Melly Flynn, adult participant

UP for Learning can help you create authentic opportunities to position youth as change agents in partnership with adults. If you are wrestling with any of the following questions, we can help:

- How do I help my community understand **WHY youth-adult partnership matters?**
- What youth-adult **partnership opportunities exist** that we have not identified?
- How do we **equitably recruit youth** to partner with adults?
- How do we **train and support both youth and adults** to work together in authentic partnership?
- How can I employ either Participatory Action Research or Design Thinking to **inform our future direction?**
- What needs to change in our youth-adult relationships and **structures** to elevate youth voice and embrace partnership?



Our Future: Customization



UP for Learning is expanding our services to support individual schools and community groups that have a vision for youth activation with adult partners. Over the past decade, UP has developed an extensive array of tools and strategies to promote young people as partners and agents for change in school redesign. Examples:

Professional Development

UP for Learning has been providing professional development for both Barre City School middle-level faculty and Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union K-12 faculty to help align teaching practices with current brain research. Importantly, these trainings also include how to empower students with this same knowledge so that learning becomes a transparent partnership between the teacher and the learner.

Strategic Planning

Every strategic planning process should begin with extensive research of all the key stakeholder groups. Milton School District is engaging upper elementary through high school students and their adult partners, to mobilize their community, collect, and synthesize this data and provide input into the district's strategic plan. UP has provided a framework for the data collection and training to launch this work.

Understanding and ownership of Transferable Skills & Scholarly Habits

Both Peoples Academy and Stowe middle schools have mobilized youth and adult teams in a yearlong effort to build understanding and buy-in for their "Scholarly Habits" — identified skills that serve as a benchmark for their education. UP for Learning has employed a "Design Thinking" framework to guide this work, leading technical assistance retreats at each critical stage in the process.

Collaborative Peer Review

Three schools, Otter Valley, Mill River, and Leland & Gray, engaged in a year-long initiative to focus their continuous improvement efforts. They mobilized a youth-adult team to conduct "Walk Through" observations in each other's schools, and shared their observations of strengths and areas of growth in a full faculty meeting.

or....

Your unique need or opportunity?

UP for Learning has demonstrated, across the years, the power of adult/youth partnerships. School district and community visioning is time-consuming and arduous work; however, **in working with UP, every member walks away equipped with the tools necessary to engage and inspire others toward a common goal.**

—Amy Rex, Milton Town School District superintendent

Next Steps

If you have been contemplating deepening relationships and elevating the responsibilities and roles of young people and are looking for guidance to think through a process to ensure your success, **please contact Lindsey Halman: lindsey@upforlearning.org**. One of our faculty would be glad to meet and discuss the alignment of our resources with your needs.

About UP for Learning

Over the past decade, UP for Learning has worked with 113 schools, training nearly 2,700 student leaders in every county of the state to build the capacity of youth and their adult partners as innovators, collaborators, and leaders. We continually scan the educational landscape to identify opportunities for young people to do meaningful work — work that would otherwise be addressed by adults only. In response, we have created initiatives undertaken by multiple schools, providing training, tools, and embedded support for each endeavor:

- Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together
- Getting to Y: Youth Bring Meaning to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Communicating School Redesign
- M3: Mindset, Metacognition and Motivation
- Transforming Schools through Restorative Practices
- P4 Advisories: Personal Power and Purpose through Partnership

