

Designing Education Together



“There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

—Margaret Wheatley,
“Turning to One Another”



There are two pandemics — **COVID** and **SYSTEMIC RACISM** — demanding that we come together to re-examine our educational beliefs and practices, build common ground and implement the changes that our school community wants and needs. With the recent shift in our educational landscape, now, more than ever, it is critical that we create opportunities to meet the needs of all learners.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible.

We know that everyone has a story about what they learned in school and what they hope for in an education. Through storytelling and dialogue, we will explore what's possible in education today by inviting in all stakeholders — youth, adults, parents and family members and community members — who care to work together. Through Participatory Action Research, we will design and implement a plan of action based on community input and feedback.

This journey will begin with a youth-adult team engaging all stakeholders to define what it means to be a thriving school community, then using that information to design, implement and communicate about the opportunities to meet the needs of all learners.

UP for Learning is poised to guide and support youth-adult teams as they embark on this journey using a structured framework that will move the work forward quickly and efficiently.

Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

In the first stage of this work, teams will:

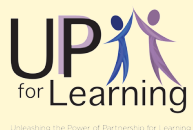
- Identify shared values and build on these to develop a sense of power and agency
- Identify what makes learning meaningful by capturing stories from all stakeholders and studying local, regional, national and global learning systems
- Agree on a focus for design
- Develop a plan of action, employing systems thinking and an understanding of change

Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

In the second stage of this work, teams will implement an action plan following the steps of Participatory Action Research (PAR):

- Engaging the community
- Collecting & Analyzing data
- Evaluating results
- Refining next steps

For more information, contact Harry Frank: harry@upforlearning.org or 802-989-4913



Empowering youth and adults to
reimagine & transform education
together + upforlearning.org



These trainings will be customized to meet the needs of the school community. Regardless of the learning landscape — virtual or in-person — **we will work with your youth-adult team to design an education that meets the needs of all learners and educators.** UP for Learning is committed to making our work financially accessible for all VT schools, eliminating any barriers to funding. Please contact us to discuss the design and cost for your community.