



YOUTH & ADULTS transforming SCHOOLS TOGETHER

2021-22

Working together physically or remotely, UP for Learning has the resources and experience to help youth and adults navigate our new educational environments to reimagine and transform the learning experience.

At the core of UP's work is one fundamental value — to seek equity and justice. That call has been amplified by the impact of the COVID pandemic coupled with the racial justice reckoning. By bringing youth and adults together to elevate youth voice and youth adult partnership in learning and decision-making, we can respond to these needs and demands and deliver on the deep, powerful learning required to meet 21st-century challenges.

REACH

Since 2008, UP for Learning has worked in partnership with **50% of all Vermont middle schools and 95.5% of all 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 — research-based framework to explore and 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 relationships, and where the responsibility for learning is shared by all.

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.

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

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

The Youth Participatory Action Research Cycle guides this process.

YATST COMPONENTS

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



"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

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.



COST

- Full Member Schools (first three years of partnership) \$7,500
- Alumni Schools (ongoing partnership starting year four) \$3,000

UP provides two pathways to learning for adults. In both cases, credit or hours are based on meeting the course goals:

- In partnership with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), an adult partner can earn 1 or 3 graduate credits for the course. This UP for Learning course costs \$683/\$2,049, which covers instruction, materials, and all fees associated with SNHU credits.
- If graduate credits are not a priority, adult partners can participate in the same course (for 15 or 45 professional learning hours) at the reduced cost of \$563/\$1,689.

UP encourages schools to offer youth members credit and/or evidence of proficiency in transferable skills toward graduation.

YATST is an initiative of

UP for Learning

Empowering youth and adults to reimagine & transform education *together*

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 **3,330 student leaders** in **120 schools** in Vermont and New England through **425 programs**.

