Empowering youth to create, innovate & lead

We believe that every young person should...

“Every time I attend or facilitate an UP for Learning event, I am reminded why I am a part of all this. I feel like I have never been in a place where I can listen, learn, share and have conversations that matter so much to me.”

—Shelburne Community School student and CPS facilitator

“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

UP for Learning’s programming significantly improves youth and adult feelings of agency and belonging.

Source: analysis of 2020-2021 pre- to post-survey data from all participants

Have the opportunity and ability to shape their own lives and the lives of others

Have a sense of purpose

Be known and valued

Empowering youth & adults to reimagine & transform education together

School and community partners co-design with UP for Learning to create a wide variety of opportunities to position youth as change agents in partnership with adults.

“I am excited most about the potential that this work has to transformatively change the culture at our school — this work helps change our collective mindset.”

—UP adult participant

“I can say confidently that I’m a much more comfortable facilitator and I’ve gotten so many tools to help along the way. Most importantly for me, I’ve learned how to reach towards things that I am passionate and care deeply about and that I am proud of.”

—Twinfield Union student and UP youth facilitator

“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. It is the premier nonprofit in the nation that draws upon evidence-based practice and research to carefully design projects aimed at improving schools and empowering young people.”

—Dr. Dana Mitra, Pennsylvania State University

OPENING DOORS TO YOUTH AS INNOVATIVE LEADERS
Core Values & Beliefs

Our fundamental value is to SEEK EQUITY & JUSTICE

We believe that educational equity is a human right. All young people have the right to a meaningful and engaging education. In order to pursue this aim, we are guided by these principles and values...

SHARE RESPONSIBILITY
Learning and change must be transparent and must be driven by adults and youth as equal partners.

START FROM STRENGTHS
Youth and adults have the wisdom and capacity to orchestrate change. Beginning with what’s working provides hope and energizes a community to embrace change.

CREATE OPEN DIALOGUE
Deep conversation is central to changing school cultures. When systems are designed for youth to be engaged as full partners with equal value, the work of school transformation can occur by creating a shared vision for education and the learning process.

EMPLOY DATA TO DRIVE CHANGE
Research is a vitally important way to build credibility between youth and adults. When a community works together to make meaning of their own data, they are strengthened by what they learn and emboldened to take action.

We are committed to ENSURING AFFORDABLE ACCESS to our programs, and prioritizing our work with our most economically challenged and underserved schools. UP for Learning is committed to systemic social justice and closing the opportunity gap — ensuring that all schools have access to UP’s work regardless of their ability to pay.

Celebrating 13 Years of Growth

SUPPORTERS & COLLABORATORS
In collaboration with the following foundations and organizations, we are proud to ensure that all young people have opportunities, support, knowledge, and skills needed to pursue active roles in their learning, their lives, and their community.

YEAR 1

- 4 high school teams engaged in improving schools
- Served schools in 4 of 14 Vermont counties
- 32 youth involved in changing their schools
- 1 school transformation program
- 1 faculty founder
- An operating budget of $80,000

YEAR 13

- 433 high, middle and elementary school teams engaged in improving their schools & communities
- Served schools in 14 of 14 Vermont counties and a growing number of states including MA, NH, MS, WI and DE.
- 3,400 empowered & skilled youth leaders made a positive difference in their schools & communities
- 5 youth-adult partnership programs transforming schools & communities
- 11 accredited graduate classes supporting teachers in their role with youth as co-creators of change
- 10 experienced and passionate educational leaders
- An operating budget of over $600,000

We are grateful to the individuals, foundations, and organizations who have made our work possible over the past 13 years!

Empowering youth and adults to reimagine & transform education together

upforlearning.org • (802) 552-8140 • info@upforlearning.org • @UPforlearningVT • /UPforLearning