

Youth Leadership, Equity, and Student Voice

I think that [working with] UP made me more confident about speaking in front of crowds. I also think that I learned how to work with adults more equally and listen to everyone's ideas.

—Student, Milton High School
Youth Voice Team



Central to all of UP for Learning's work with youth-adult teams is building youth leaders, equity, and student voice.

UP will work with partners to tailor projects that address specific school dynamics and to address issues impacting school climate and culture. We use the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) process to collect equity data, examine the results, and take action to make lasting change! Here are some examples:

Youth Leadership: Using a dynamic module created and piloted by youth at Harwood Union High School, representative teams of middle and high school youth identify their core values, explore leadership styles, and practice facilitation skills. This module provides tools for youth leaders to train other students as youth leaders.

Equity: We support youth and adult teams in creating more equitable and just schools, whether it is taking action to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in discipline data, partnering on anti-racism initiatives, or ensuring that everyone in a school community has access to mental health resources.



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

Student Voice: UP for Learning partners with schools to ensure that student voice is infused throughout school climate and culture in authentic ways, such as youth co-creating school policies with their teachers and administrators. UP also supports a Youth Action Council (YAC), an opportunity for youth leaders from across the country to develop their own power and empower others to effect change.

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