

# Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together

## 2025–2026



### **UP for Learning brings youth and adults together to reimagine and transform the learning and teaching experience by elevating**

youth voice and fostering youth-adult partnership in both learning and decision-making. This is achieved through everyday classroom practices, the cultivation of a representative team reflective of the school community, and meaningful engagement of the entire school in dialogue and collective reflection. UP's practices and protocols are responsive to current needs and aspirations, supporting the deep, transformative learning necessary to address today's challenges and opportunities.

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## WHY YATST?

For youth, working closely with adults toward shared goals builds the skills and confidence for lifelong learning and civic engagement. For adults, working closely with youth creates the opportunity to learn from the insight and unique perspectives of youth, often renewing their professional sense of purpose and shifting teaching toward more student-centered practices.

## HOW DOES YATST WORK?

Following the Youth Participatory Action Research Cycle, UP for Learning will train and coach youth and adult partners to bring the classroom and school community together around shared priorities, and follow through on work plans to reach their goals.

YATST teams utilize the 4 Rs — Rigor, Relevance, Relationship, and Shared Responsibility — a research based framework to explore and understand the learning and teaching experience.

### 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.

### Shared Responsibility

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

### Relevance

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

## WHY NOW?

Our aspiration for personalized learning and the fulfillment of proficiency-based graduation requires authentic youth-adult partnership. When youth and adults share voice, agency, and leadership—through true partnership—it leads to increased engagement in learning and more meaningful decision-making at the classroom, school, and community levels.

## COST

- Full Member Schools (years 1–3): \$8,000
- Alumni Schools (ongoing partnership starting year 4): \$4,000

*"Our work with UP for Learning this year has been inspiring in so many ways. **Having students truly have a voice in the work, think critically and feel safe to share their opinions is the magic that will bring the work to life and be our guide for years to come!**"*

—Adult reflection

*"Working with UP has been a great experience. It has been a great way for students to really **find their voice in their school** and learn that their voices can have a positive impact on their school lives."*

—Youth reflection

**For more information** about YATST, contact Harry Frank: [harry@upforlearning.org](mailto:harry@upforlearning.org) or 802-989-4913.



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

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

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