

IMPACT UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2025

The Ripple Effect of Change

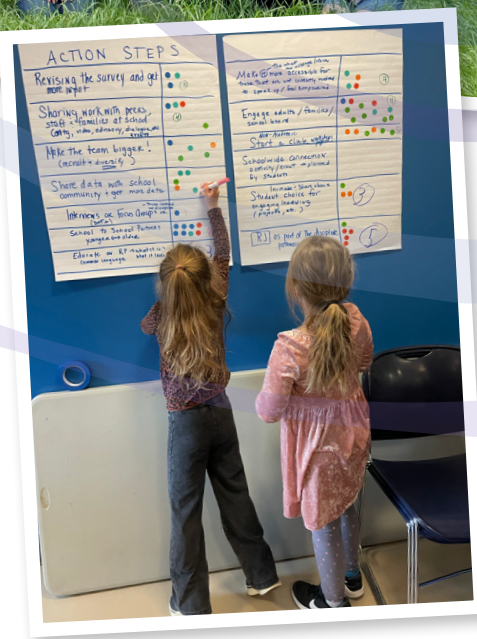
At UP for Learning, change starts with a single drop—youth and adult partners coming together to tackle complex challenges, sparking a ripple of transformation in their schools and communities. As young people develop leadership and communication skills, gain confidence in their voices, and build strong relationships, these ripples expand—creating lasting, meaningful change.

This Impact Report highlights our collaborations from July to January, illustrating UP's ongoing successes in fostering **shared power, voice, and responsibility**. Our data shows that youth engaged with UP feel empowered to shape their futures, participate in their community, and build a more just world.

As UP deepens partnerships, schools address **social-emotional needs, equity, and flexible pathways to graduation and careers**. Our coaching models key skills—**using data, deep listening, and incorporating multiple perspectives**—to solve complex problems. By engaging youth and adults in authentic partnerships, what begins as a ripple builds into a movement—one that transforms communities and reimagines education for generations to come.



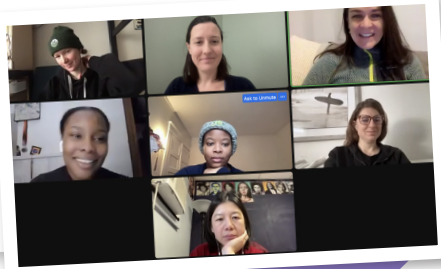
Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning



National Work

RACIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUES

Since 2020, UP's Racial Justice Dialogues (RJD) youth-adult team have facilitated eight monthly sessions each year, co-designing and co-planning each session in partnership. This year's includes youth from UP for Learning teams in VT, DE, MA, MS, and Cherokee Nation. [Read more...](#)



Local Work

U-32 MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

MONTPELIER, VT

The U-32 Student Council collaborates with UP to achieve its clear and ambitious goals: strengthening team cohesion, reflecting on individual values and leadership styles, and strategizing for impactful actions throughout the year. [Read more...](#)



State Work

GTY STATEWIDE REPLICATION

NEW HAMPSHIRE

UP and Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-Free Youth (CADY) launched of NH's state-wide replication of Getting to 'Y' in January. After years of planning, regional trainings began in February. [Read more...](#)



State Work

VERMONT AGENCY OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL SAFETY)

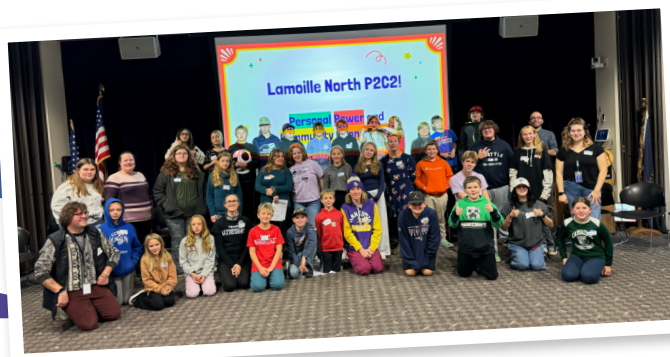
Empowering Youth Voices: The Elevating Youth in School Safety project amplifies the perspectives of young people who engaged in statewide dialogues with UP and shared their experiences through our School Safety Survey. [Read more...](#)



The Droplet

YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The first cohort of the Youth Internship Program (YIP) consists of two groups: Youth Interns, who co-lead programs and projects within their local communities or schools, and Youth Program Specialists (YPSs), a cohort of part-time employees in their final years of high school or beyond who are more deeply involved in UP's day-to-day operations. UP supports youth to improve their communities, the metaphorical drop in the water that starts the ripple. [Read more...](#)



Regional Work

LAMOILLE NORTH SUPERVISORY UNION

HYDE PARK, VT

A team of fifth and sixth-grade youth from five Lamoille North Supervisory Union elementary schools learned from the District's Equity Design Team what it means to be a leader within their schools. This group will then lead UP's Personal Power and Community Connections (P2C2) program in their own school. [Read more...](#)



Regional Work

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BRISTOL, VT

The Mount Abraham Unified School District team made of forty youth and adults is on a multi-phase journey to create a "Portrait of a Learner" that will ultimately guide and inspire a revitalized strategic plan for the district. [Read more...](#)



Local Work

MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

Monument Mountain Regional High School's Student-Adult Advisory Board partners with UP to strengthen their facilitation skills in service to their school community. Now in their fifth year with UP, they collaborate in youth-led committees to address key concerns and challenges shared by both students and adults. [Read more...](#)



National Work

TRAILBLAZERS

VIRTUAL

UP's youth-led digital magazine offers another way to amplify youth voice. The annual youth-led publication presents written or artistic reflections on current issues. [Read more...](#)



UP by the Numbers

July–December 2024

2,114

hours of
compensated
time for youth
co-facilitators/
interns

128

unique youth-
adult teams

52

schools
partnering
with UP

33

teams with
unique projects
outside of
Vermont

33

school district
level or regional
projects infusing
youth-adult
partnership

8

youth facilitating
virtual monthly
racial justice
dialogues

5

state and
national
conferences
where UP
youth and staff
presented

12

Youth Action
Council
members

4

youth voting
members on
UP's Board of
Directors

55

Youth Program
Specialists and
youth interns

BE THE RIPPLE: SUPPORT LASTING CHANGE

At UP for Learning, we know that real change starts small—one conversation, one partnership, one empowered young person at a time. But when youth and adults work together to share power, voice, and responsibility, those ripples grow into waves of transformation in schools and communities.

Our Impact Report showcases the incredible progress made from July to January, demonstrating how youth-led change fosters equity, strengthens democratic practices, and expands opportunities for all. **With your support, we can continue to deepen partnerships, empower more young leaders, and create lasting systemic change.**

Join us in amplifying youth voice and building a more just and equitable future. **Donate, partner with us, or share our work**—because every ripple of support creates waves of impact.

DONATE TODAY

LEARN MORE: upforlearning.org

GET INVOLVED: info@upforlearning.org



Meet Isis Bande- Asante

*"I am passionate about
uplifting youth voices
and enacting change
in my community —
wherever that may be!"*

Isis connected with UP in 2020 as a student at the Piney Woods School in Mississippi on a Cultivating Pathways to Sustainability (CPS) project. Now a first-year at Bowie State University in Maryland, Isis works as a Youth Program Specialist with a focus on the Youth Action Council (YAC), Racial Justice Dialogues (RJD), and the Youth-Adult Partnership (YAP) Peer Learning Space. She also serves as an UP Board Member.

Originally from Southeastern Connecticut, Isis worked with Hearing Youth Voices, an organization that aims to empower youth of color through educating underserved communities and lobbying at a local and state level. As a Philosophy, Politics, & Economics major, Isis hopes to go on to law school and continue her advocacy work.



Empowering youth and adults to reimagine & transform education together

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