



Unleashing
the Power
of Partnership
for Learning



Our Vision

We envision a time when students will take responsibility for their own learning by collaborating with adults to reach their own goals.

Our Mission

Increase student engagement by developing youth-adult partnerships in learning to ensure that each and every student has the skills, self-confidence and opportunities to assume meaningful roles in shaping their learning and their lives.



YATST has given us a common language and the framework for students and teachers to talk about learning. This is transformative work in its truest form.

—Cindy Donlon, principal, Hazen Union School



partnership creates
ownership
ownership sparks
motivation
motivation drives
learning

We provide training, resource development & ongoing coaching

for a wide variety of initiatives that provide opportunities for young people to assume meaningful roles in shaping their learning and their lives.

Youth & Adults Transforming Schools Together

Youth and Adults Transforming School Together (YATST) was our first program, and remains our signature initiative. YATST teams increase student engagement in learning by increasing relevance, relationships, rigor, and shared responsibility through an action research model. Schools are supported by **high-impact training, on- & off-site coaching, facilitation training, resource development, documentation & evaluation**, and development of a professional learning community.



Other Major Initiatives

GETTING TO 'Y': YOUTH BRING MEANING TO THEIR YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY: Youth teams learn to analyze their YRBS data, share their analysis with the community, and take action.

LEARNING & THE BRAIN: THE STORY OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Youth-adult teams explore how the brain learns and develop concrete tools to dispel the myth that intelligence is fixed.

COMMUNICATING SCHOOL REDESIGN UPSTITUTE: Intensive training provides effective research-based strategies to promote public understanding and support for school change. *This is a collaborative effort of UP for Learning in partnership with Full Frame Communications, the School Project Foundation, and the Vermont Agency of Education.*

COLLABORATIVE PEER REVIEW: School youth-adult teams learn to conduct peer review site visits, collect their own school data, and synthesize their findings to inform ongoing school improvement efforts.



The student-led faculty meeting was unlike anything I have ever seen in terms of students and teachers holding a discussion about a topic as sensitive as their teaching methods. I heard from a lot of teachers that they were awestruck about what had just happened.

—YATST student reflection, from an evaluation by Dr. Dana Mitra, Pennsylvania State University

Other Services

CUSTOMIZED YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING: We design and implement customized trainings to position young people in leadership roles in their school, including analyzing existing school data.

POLICY ADVOCACY: We work to elevate youth voice in all Vermont schools by influencing policy-level state-wide decision making.

RESEARCH: We collaborate with academic institutions as a “learning laboratory” to explore the impact of youth-adult partnership in learning and decision making.

Values & Guiding Principles



SHARE RESPONSIBILITY: The process of change must be transparent and must be driven by adults and youth in equal measure.

START FROM STRENGTHS: Students and educators have the wisdom and capacity to orchestrate change. Beginning with what's working provides hope and energizes a community to embrace change.

ASSUME POSITIVE INTENTIONS: Educators truly want students to thrive. Young people are ready and able to commit to their learning and be involved in its design.

SEEK EQUITY & JUSTICE: The human need to be valued and heard is universal. All young people, especially those who have been most disenfranchised, have a right to a meaningful and engaging education.

CREATE OPEN DIALOGUE: Deep conversation is central to changing school cultures. Young people are particularly able initiators of this dialogue, 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.



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