



WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOINING YATST?

YATST teams commit to

Doing ACTION research focusing on engagement in learning and voice in decision making. Taking ACTION is key.

Coming to gatherings for training, support, and teaming time.

Establishing a consistent meeting time at school to do this work. (This is the hardest challenge!).

Working in a true youth-adult partnership.

Adult members join a graduate course.

This work is different in each YATST school - there is no one right way. Each team creates their own identity and their own process to reach their goals.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING YATST?

There are many....

Meetings with teams of youth and adults from schools around the state who also want to make a difference.

Our night team building adventures - guaranteed unforgettable!

Doing work that matters - that will change our school for the better - making sure ALL students are valued and can learn.

Learning leadership skills such as public speaking, facilitating group discussions, leading student assemblies and how to be an "agent of change".

Being able to take risks while being supported.

Presenting at state and national conferences.

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YOUTH AND ADULTS
TRANSFORMING
SCHOOLS TOGETHER

Vermont Rural Partnership Affiliate



Fostering schools where learning is engaging and students are empowered.

THE 4 Rs

We increase engagement in learning by increasing the 4 Rs in our schools:

Relevance:

Making connections between the course content and the individual's past learning, personal life and/or future academic and career goals.

Relationships:

Strong student-teacher relationships where learning is tailored to the individual.

Rigor:

Learning is challenging, and develops the capacity to understand content that is complex, ambiguous, provocative and personally or emotionally challenging.

Responsibility (shared):

Teachers and students understand that both play a key role in learning and share responsibility accordingly. Students are incorporated into decision making on issues impacting them.



"I learned that there are people out there, both adults and students, who will think along with me, respect me, and who I can have a ton of fun with".

SO WHAT IS YATST?

Who are we?

A network of Vermont high school teams who believe that when youth and adults join together in partnership to transform their schools, great things can happen.

How do we do our work?

We use an ACTION Research model. We collect information on the 4 Rs (see left panel) from all teachers and students by means of a written survey we develop. We then share this information with the school community (students, faculty, school boards & community members) and ask them what meaning it has for them. We incorporate their ideas and enlist their support in the actions we then take, when we consider all we have learned.

What is our goal?

We want to make our schools places where all students are engaged in their learning and know that their thoughts and ideas matter. We are especially concerned about those who feel disengaged.

What is it like to be a YATST member?

The year begins with a summer retreat where all the YATST school teams do adventure teambuilding and planning for the year ahead. We also receive training to build ACTION research skills. We then meet weekly at our school to accomplish our goals. In some schools, this is a credit-bearing class. In November we have another overnight retreat with the other school teams. Finally, we reflect and celebrate our work at a state-wide conference in May.

