



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

## **Working Group on Expanded Learning Opportunities**

**Testimony: November 5, 2015**

**Building Youth-Adult Partnerships for School Change**

# UP for Learning Vision

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

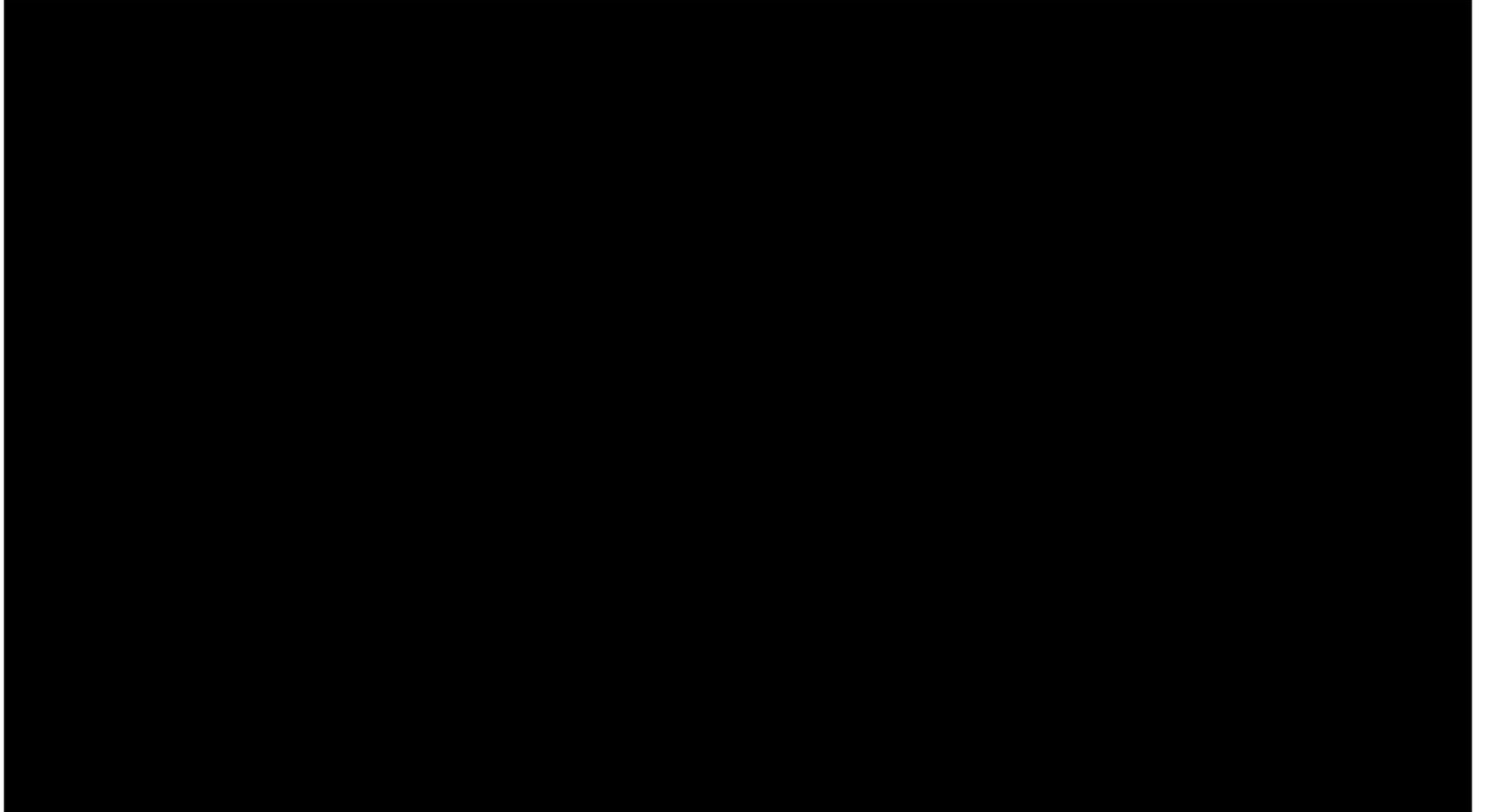


Creating  
*Engaging*  
Learning  
Experiences

# UP for Learning 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.





# Challenge 1:

**Building public understanding and support for a fundamental change in how students, teachers and the community perceive the purpose of education & learning, and the means to this end.**

# COMMUNICATING SCHOOL REDESIGN STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

## Campaign

### Your Local Campaigns

Building a Vermont school-based  
communications model  
from the ground up

### State Campaign

Logo/song/branding  
Educate major stakeholders  
Statewide media pieces  
Vermont web

### Shaping Our Future Together Campaign

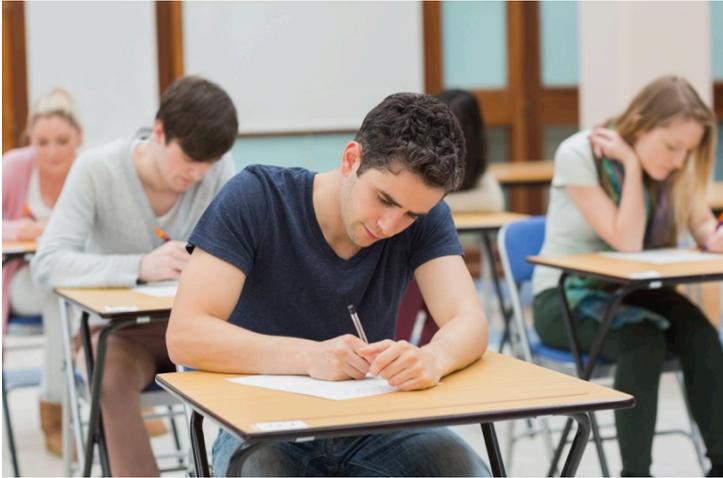
Building public  
understanding and support  
for Act 77

### New England Reach

Nellie Mae website

Teaching is the act of pouring in information;  
learning is the act of receiving this information  
as an empty vessel.





Learning is  
largely passive.

Learning is most likely  
to occur when the  
brain is active



## Fixed Intelligence

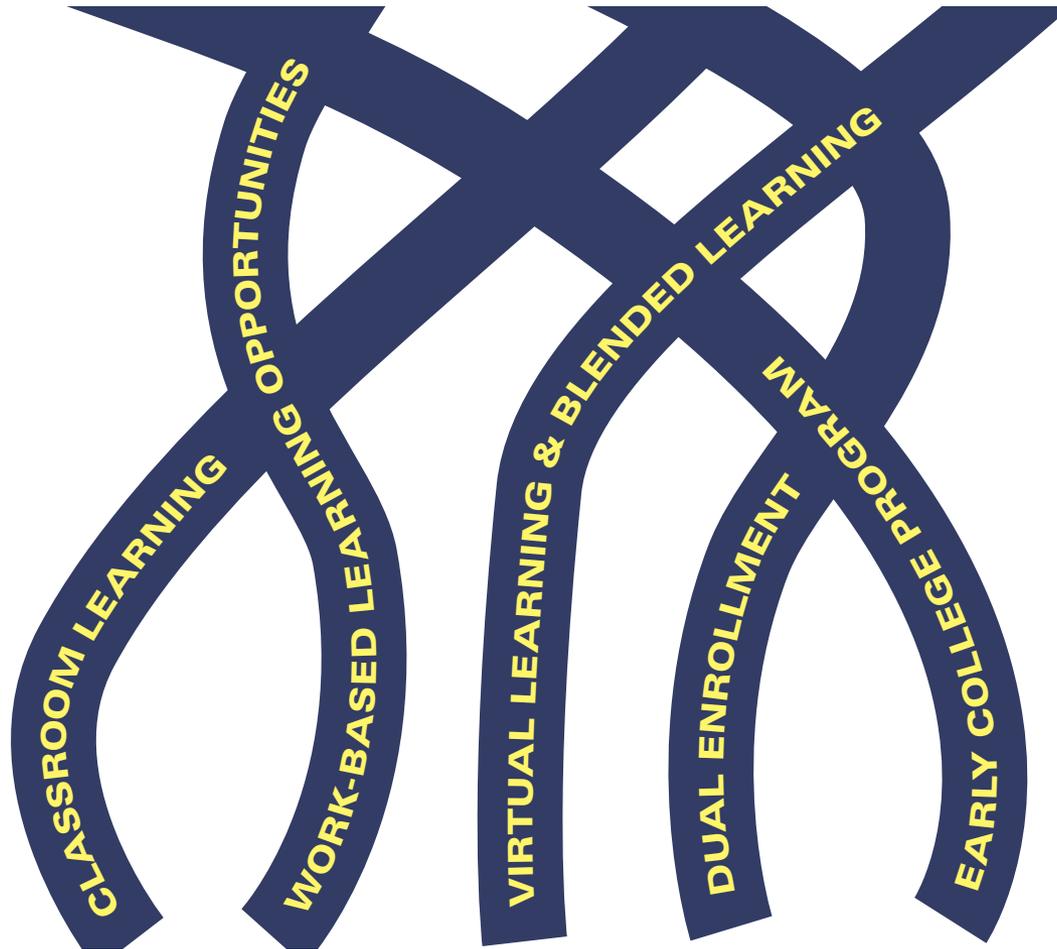


**Growth mindset about  
intelligence**

# Beliefs about motivation...



# Creating a common understanding of WHY educational change sets the stage for ALL our work

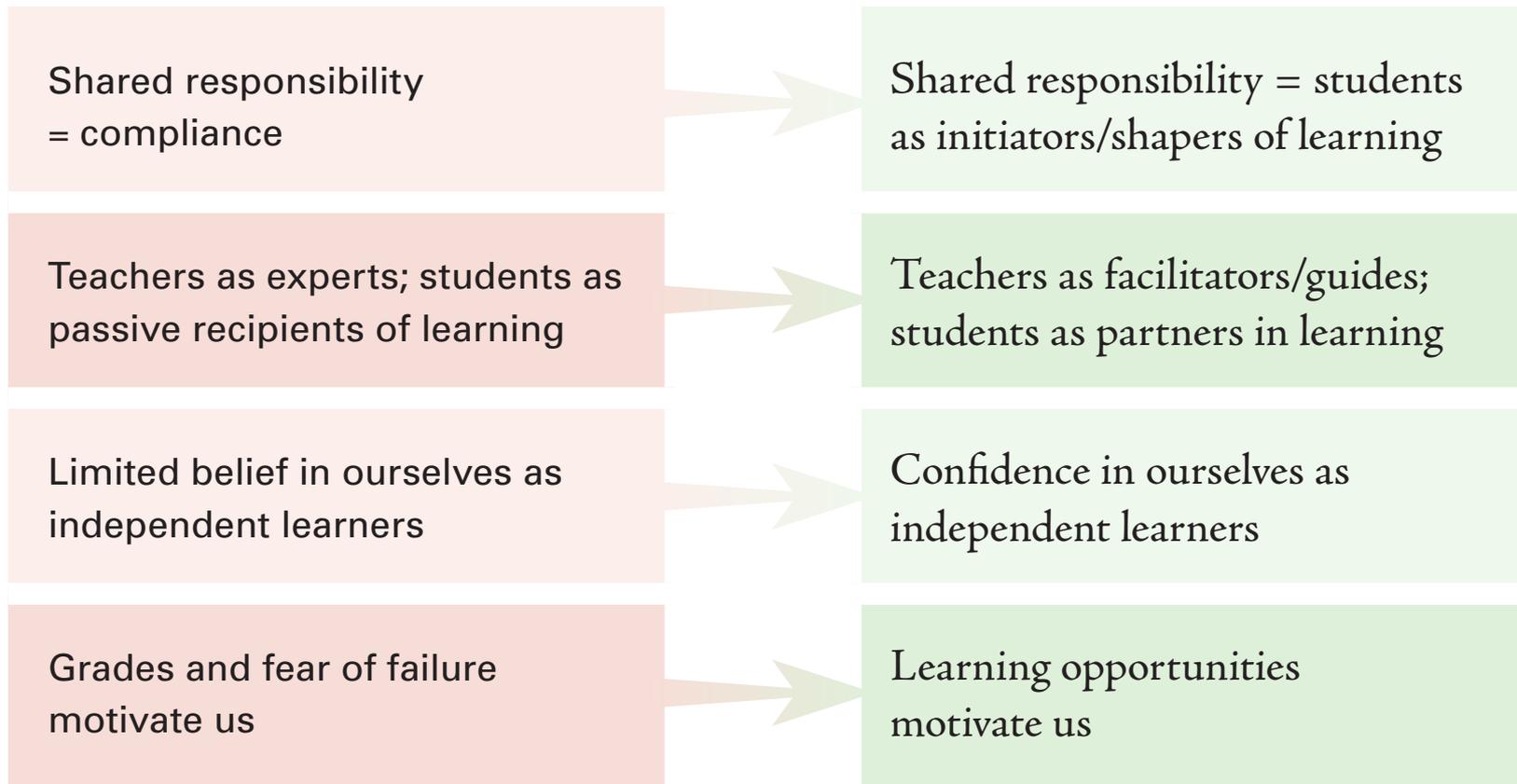


# Why is this work so important?

- Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
  - 25% nationally
  - 50% of Vermont high school students
- Young people are given useful roles in the community.
  - 32%
- Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
  - 63%
- Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
  - 45%

# Paradigm Shift

## Changing Our Mental Models



# The Solution...

- Capitalize on,
- expand &
- coordinate



existing communications development efforts.

—*Bridget Couture, student at  
Twinfield Union School*

This is **such an exciting step forward** for our schools and students. We can't address challenges around engagement, relevance, and student responsibility for learning without taking on this issue of personalization.

—*Rebecca Holcombe,  
Vermont Secretary of Education*

As human beings, we all desire and deserve to be valued and known, to have a sense of purpose in life, and to pursue that purpose with intention. Act 77 is a means to this end for students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members — who are all partners in learning:

- **Students** take ownership of their learning by co-creating and pursuing their high school path based on their interests, fostering a sense of purpose and a capacity to shape their future.
- **Teachers** co-create engaging learning opportunities, building upon their deep desire to nurture a love of learning within all students and be continuous learners themselves.
- **Parents/guardians** provide insight and input into their child's chosen pathway throughout their middle and high school years, helping their child best prepare for graduation and beyond.
- **Community members** benefit from increased opportunities to support and learn from young people as they do meaningful work through internships, service learning, independent study, and enrollment in college classes, building a more vital community where all members contribute and are valued.

### What will learning look like?

Act 77 adds options to the school classroom that can lead to high school completion and post-secondary readiness. There will be as many pathways as there are Vermont students. A student's choice of his or her individual pathway will be built upon individual goals, learning styles, interests, and abilities. Each student, in partnership with teachers and parents/guardians, will customize their own engaging, rigorous, and relevant plan for graduation. The pathway options include:

How can I learn more?

# SBHS PSA



# Challenge 2:

**Move from a problem-focused and passive frame regarding ELO/PLP development to a solutions-focused vision, and inclusive process to inform and promote change.**



# Mobilizing the Orchestra...



# Harness the wisdom of stakeholders & provide on-going support



# Build and Tend the School-Community Bridge



Promoting the business  
community's commitment to and  
involvement in Act 77  
implementation

# Why is Act 77 Good for “Business”?

- ✓ Retain our youth
- ✓ Provide economic incentive for youth to stay
- ✓ Strengthen the community through a vital school-community connection
- ✓ Promote on-going dialogue with schools to inform and improve educational practices
- ✓ End finger pointing
- ✓ Learn what makes millennials tick
- ✓ Be energized by a multigenerational partnership in learning – we have a lot to learn from each other!

**Jane Bradley**

**Past Green Mtn. United Way Interim Director**

# Tell Stories

