

Catamount Community Schools Collaborative (CCSC)

University + State Agency + Community Schools
Research-Policy-Practice Partnership (RP³)

RPN-UACS Webinar: April 2, 2025

Research Practice Partnerships: Working with K-12 faculty, staff, and students
to improve Community Schools



Catamount Community Schools Collaborative RP³ Panel

- Overview of CCSC RP3
 - Bernice Garnett, Associate Professor, College of Education & Social Services, University of Vermont
- Research Perspectives
 - Peter N. Knox, Research Assistant Professor, College of Education & Social Services, University of Vermont
- Policy Perspectives
 - Jess DeCarolis, Consultant, Public Education Consulting Services
 - Johannes Haensch, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Manager, Vermont Agency of Education
- Practice Perspectives
 - Shelly Lanou, Principal, Newport Town School
 - Samantha Stevens, Community Schools Coordinator , North Country Supervisory Union, Newport Vermont

Community Schools in Vermont

...are not singular programs or strategies.. It's how we do school.

...align with Vermont's student-centered approach to learning

...close equity gaps by providing services, resources, and opportunities for students and families, in the school.

.... leverage Vermont's unique context, history, and values through place-based services and relational assets in rural communities, emphasizing deeper learning by doing and schools as community centers.



Community
STEAM Night

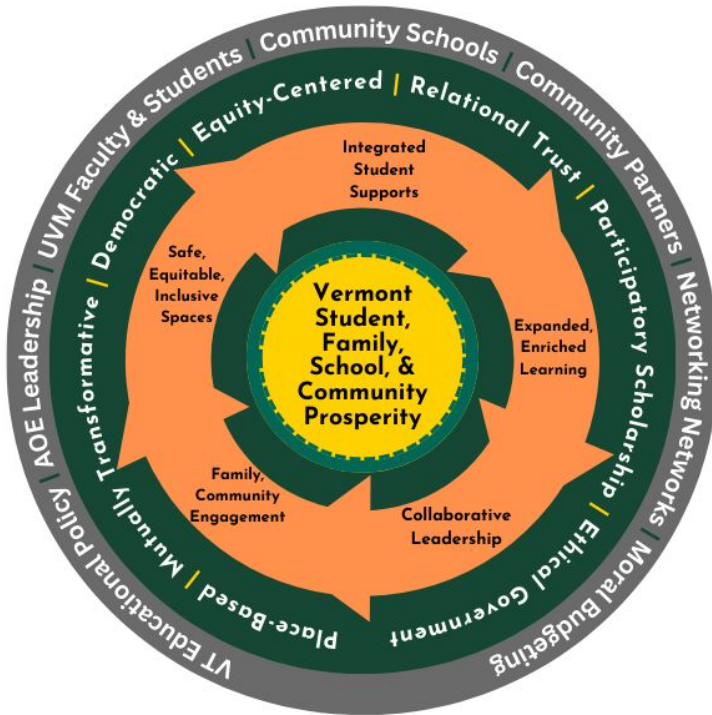
185 visitors to 10 Events with
103 Unique Participants
Newport Town, Charleston



Who We Are

Catamount Community Schools Collaborative (CCSC)

The AOE/UVM Community Schools Research-Policy-Practice Partnership



-  Supportive Infrastructure
-  University-Assisted
Community Schools Values
-  Vermont Community
School Pillars
-  Why We Do This Work



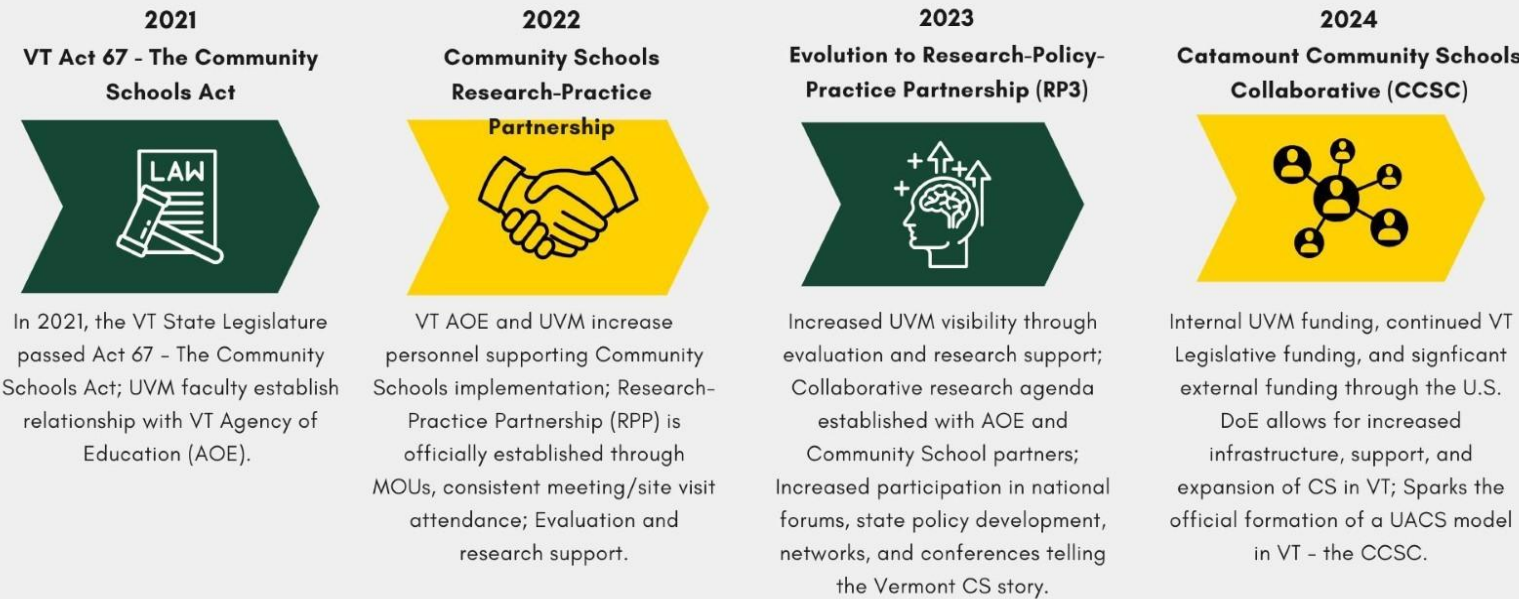
CCSC
CATAMOUNT COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE
University of Vermont

How we do the work



CATAMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE

The evolutionary timeline of a University-Assisted Community School in the State of Vermont.



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families

OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

April 6, 2023 | Lauren Supplee, Ivelisse Martinez Beck, Alysia Blandon, Sarah Blankenship, Kathleen Dwyer

The Role of R3P: Research Practice Policy Partnerships and Evidence Use

A simple line-art icon of two hands shaking, symbolizing a partnership or agreement.

UACS + RP³: Research Perspectives

In your role as a University researcher, how do you engage with the RP³?

- State-level Policy Implementation Evaluation & Advocacy
- Community Schools Implementation Support
- Applied Research
- UVM Student Internships/Clinical Placements
- Professional Development & Capacity Building

- 15. CS Mindset
 - a. Acknowledgment of CS structure, culture, resources provided by CS work, etc.
 - b. Thinking in a new way about 'doing school': Including other community organizations, resources, and opportunities; Values, vision, and tone of CS.
 - c. Instances of non-admin., coord., or supt. professionals discussing, demonstrating, or embodying the CS structure.
 - d. Identify - conversations, mentions of school identity development, community identity, and self-perception.
 - i. CS Internalization and Actualization!
- 16. CS Championing
 - a. CS advocacy and communication with the broader community (e.g., family, school board, community partners)
 - b. Advocating for CS approach, communicating CS concepts.
- 17. CS Artifacts (CS in Action; Tangible Evidence of CODE 16)
 - a. Board reports are organized by pillars, communication channels/materials noting CS structure, etc.
 - b. Strategic planning documents inclusive of CS pillars, ethos, and mentality.
 - c. Community-based services offered: Comm partners in school; Coordinator duties/responsibilities; Three-year goals/expectations; Training/facilitation; CS messaging/advocacy.
- 18. CS Challenges/Barriers
 - a. Obstacles faced in implementing CS work; Red tape; Sticking points or bottlenecks that slow down efforts.
- 19. CS Visioning / Sustainability / Future Thinking
 - a. Goals for the future; Ways to sustain CS programming

[illegible]

VERMONT ACT 67: THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACT

Evaluation Findings and Recommendations from Three Years (2021-2024)
of Community Schools Implementation in Rural Vermont.

CCSC Student Placements/Internships

Catamount Community Schools Collaborative

UVM Student Internship Placements

2024 - 2025

	Mental Health	Food Systems	Public Health	PComm / CDAE	Place-Based Education	Graduate Education	Summer Residential Internship Cohorts
Cabot School	Clinical Mental Health Grad Student						
North Country Supervisory Union		Food Systems Undergrad	MPH Student			SHIE Doctoral Student	
Vergennes Elementary	Clinical Mental Health Grad Student						
White River Valley Middle School			MPH Student		Indiv. Designed Major Undergrad		Interdisciplinary Undergrads (12)
Hazen Union School			Public Health Undergrad				Interdisciplinary Undergrad (1)
CCSC				PComm Undergrads (2)		SHIE Doctoral Student	



Positioning Policy (little p and Big P) in the RP³

- In your roles, share your experiences engaging with the community schools RP³ and the ways in which an RP³ structure has supported community schools policy implementation evaluation and sustainability
- What is the added value of an RP³ in your organizational context and positionality?
- How can RP³ support utilization of research at the local and state level to inform practice and policy?



Centering Practice in our RP³

Newport Town School, Principal Perspectives

Newport Town School RP³: Multi-generational meals & early childhood center/community development

- In your role as a school principal, how do you engage in collaborative research, policy and practice?
- In what ways has the community schools RP structure supported your school community and your role as a school leader?



“It gives me a lot of hope for the future. It is also commendable that the adults and teachers are helping to raise them. It also reminds me that I have a purpose, a place to help raise these children too. I may not be their relative, but in that interaction, I am and have now become part of their life.
- PARTICIPATING SENIOR”

NUMBER OF MULTIGENERATIONAL MEALS: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024



ON AVERAGE THERE ARE 25 SENIORS AT EACH MEAL WITH 150 SENIORS SERVED FROM SEPT-DEC 2024



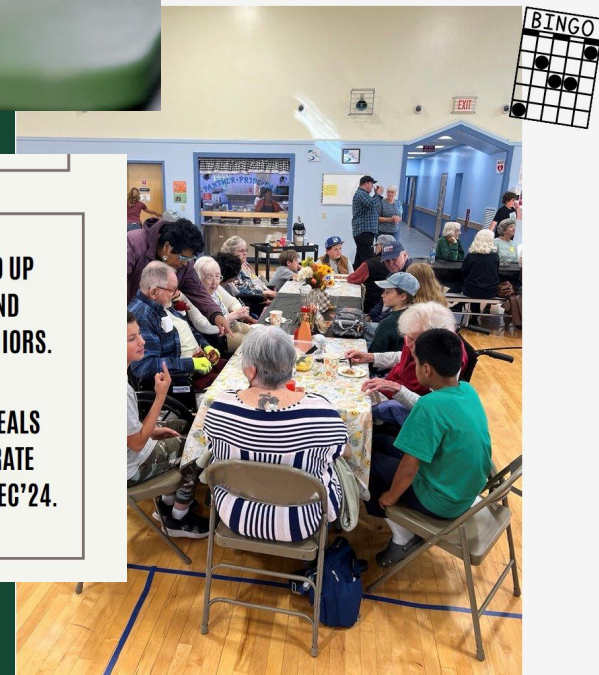
ON AVERAGE THERE ARE 16 STUDENTS RANGING FROM K-6TH GRADE AT EACH MEAL



13 MEALS ARE PACKED UP AFTER EACH MEAL AND DELIVERED TO LOCAL SENIORS.



THERE WERE 260 MEALS SERVED AT 8 SEPARATE EVENTS FROM SEPT-DEC'24.



Centering Practice in our RP³

North Country Supervisory Union, District Community School Coordinator

- In your role as a district community school coordinator, how do you engage in the RP³?
- In what ways has the community schools RP³ structure supported the implementation and sustainability of community schools in the North Country Supervisory Union?
- What would you share with other community school coordinators interested in partnering with policy and research stakeholders about the work?



**NCSU
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

Connection
Relationship
Support
Belonging



THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments?

Bernice.garnett@uvm.edu

Peter.knox@uvm.edu

johannes.haensch@vermont.gov

decarolisj@gmail.com



Follow the QR code to learn more about the Catamount Community Schools Collaborative!



Connected Voices: A Community Schools Digital Storytelling Project

Vermont Act 67 -

The Pilot

[Short Version](#)

[Full Length Version](#)



[The Five Pillars of Vermont Community Schools](#)

The VT Community Schools Research-Policy-Practice Partnership (RP3)

[Short Version](#)

[Full Length Version](#)



Connected Voices: A Community Schools Digital Storytelling Project

★ [North Country Supervisory Union](#)

★ [Hazen Union School](#)

★ [Cabot School](#)

★ [Vergennes Union Elementary School](#)

★ [White River Valley Middle School](#)

Follow the links above to see and hear the experiences of Vermont Community Schools students, families, educators, and leaders.

Click on the [LINK](#) to engage with our community school digital stories!