



GRADE-LEVEL READING BY THIRD GRADE

Kids who are reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to graduate high school on time.

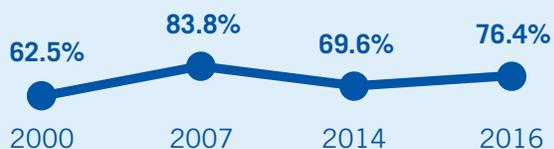
Up to third grade, kids learn to read. After third grade, they read to learn. When it comes to literacy, third grade is where the rubber meets the road. A student who is reading at grade level by third grade is significantly more likely to succeed in later grades and graduate high school on time.

Unfortunately, one in four kids in our region is not reading proficiently by third grade. In areas of high poverty, the third grade reading SOL pass rate is as low as 61 percent, compared to the state average of 75.6 percent. If we are to build a better Richmond and Petersburg region, we must work together to improve these numbers.

BY THE NUMBERS

KEY INDICATOR

THIRD GRADE READING STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOL) ASSESSMENT (SPRING 2016)



Source: Virginia Department of Education

RELATED INDICATOR

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

K-12 STUDENTS MISSING MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



Attendance is a critical indicator of school success and engagement. Access to grade-by-grade attendance data will allow us to more accurately track progress toward grade-specific milestones, including third grade reading.

Source: Virginia Department of Education





WHAT WE DO

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg understands the key factors that drive third grade literacy: parent success, school readiness, attendance and summer learning. We work with programs that focus on these areas to make a real, sustainable impact on elementary literacy.

We convene the **Greater Richmond Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**, which partners with school districts, nonprofits, corporations and other organizations to collectively increase third grade reading proficiency across the Greater Richmond region.

We host **Reading for Resilience** events, which bring together volunteers to read to children and help them develop emotional regulation and literacy skills needed for success in school.

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg is proud to support the following organizations:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ChildSavers
- Communities in Schools of Richmond
- FRIENDS Association for Children
- Peter Paul Development Center
- Virginia Mentoring Partnership
- YMCA of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

SPOTLIGHT

Collaborative Action Network

We convene the **Literacy Collaborative Action Network**, which brings together regional literacy specialists, librarians, K-12 educators, administrators and nonprofit partners. The network defines system-level issues that must be addressed through policy, awareness or shared action.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate. Give to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know you want your gift to help increase third grade reading proficiency.

Volunteer. United Way volunteers read to students and create literacy kits for teachers and students. Email volunteer@yourunitedway.org and we will help match you with the right opportunity.

yourunitedway.org



United Way of Greater
Richmond & Petersburg