



MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Attendance and success in middle school are critical in keeping students on track for on-time graduation and preparing them to continue their education after high school or secure a self-sustaining job.

In so many ways, middle school represents a period of transition and evolution. It can be difficult for students to remain engaged and persist into high school, especially students who struggled academically in elementary school, or have experienced trauma or have struggled with mental health problems. To increase the chances of success, students must have safe school and home environments, positive interactions with adults and peers and feel a sense of empowerment as they mature into young adults.

BY THE NUMBERS

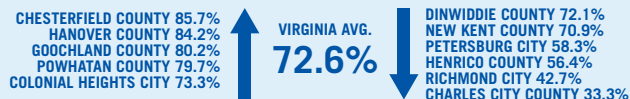
KEY INDICATOR

EIGHTH GRADE STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOL) SCORES

READING SOL ASSESSMENT (SPRING 2016):



MATH 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 middle school engagement.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

RELATED INDICATOR

SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR



Source: Virginia Department of Education

RELATED INDICATOR

CARING ADULTS



Middle school students who report they have a supportive relationship with a caring adult are more likely to stay engaged and successfully prepare for high school.



WHAT WE DO

At United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, we understand that middle school is a complicated period for all students. There's no silver bullet to strengthen engagement, which is why we work with a variety of programs in the region to tackle the issue from all sides.

Together with VCU's Mary and Frances Youth Center, we run the **Richmond Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI)**, which ensures out-of-school time programs make elementary and middle school-age students feel safe, engaged and empowered

We convene the **RVA Youth Development Network**, which ensures out-of-school time programs create spaces where young people feel safe, engaged and empowered.

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

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

- ART 180
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond
- Communities in Schools of Richmond
- Communities in Schools of Chesterfield
- Higher Achievement
- Peter Paul Development Center
- Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
- Side by Side
- Virginia Mentoring Partnership
- YMCA of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate. Give to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know you want your gift to help increase middle school engagement.

Volunteer. Want to lend your time to supporting these efforts? Email volunteer@yourunitedway.org and we will help match you with the right opportunity.

yourunitedway.org



United Way of Greater
Richmond & Petersburg