A high school diploma is a critical milestone on the path to a post-secondary degree and/or a self-sustaining career.

Whether you are headed to college, pursuing a credential or beginning your career, a high school diploma is essential. High school graduates have a higher earning potential, contribute more to our local economy and are more engaged in the community. Unfortunately, too many of our residents – particularly those in low-income areas – are not graduating high school on time – if at all. One out of every 10 high school students in the Richmond and Petersburg region did not graduate on time. We can do better. We must do better.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**KEY INDICATOR**

REGIONAL ON-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE (2016)

- **2009**: 81.7%
- **2016**: 90.1%

Source: Virginia Department of Education

**RELATED INDICATOR**

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

- **9.2%** (16,780 students)

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 high school graduation.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

**RELATED INDICATOR**

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE (2015-16)

- **791 students**

Of students who entered ninth grade in 2013, 5.9% (791 students) dropped out before graduating four years later.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

**RELATED INDICATOR**

JUVENILE CRIME (2015-16)

- **19.6 arrests per 1,000 juveniles ages 10-17**

Down from 30.1 arrests in 2013.
United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg is proud to support the following organizations:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Communities in Schools of Richmond – Performance Learning Center
- Goodwill of Central and Coastal Virginia
- Petersburg Health Department

WHAT WE DO

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg funds programs that provide critical support to students as they approach graduation. We also work with school districts and community organizations to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep students in school and on track to graduate.

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

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- Petersburg Health Department

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate. Give to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know you want your gift to help increase on-time high school graduation.

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