



## High School Graduation

**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.

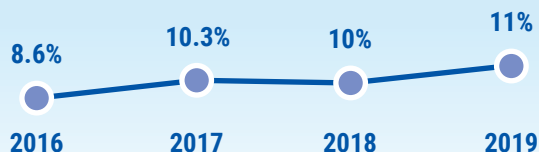
### By the Numbers

#### KEY INDICATOR

#### ON-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION (2019)



**1,525** (11%)  
STUDENTS DID NOT GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME IN 2019



Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### RELATED INDICATOR

#### HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE (2019)



**1,105** (8.0%)  
STUDENTS WHO ENTERED NINTH GRADE IN 2015 DROPPED OUT BEFORE GRADUATING FOUR YEARS LATER

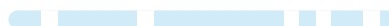
Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### RELATED INDICATOR

#### CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM (2019)

**8,051** (15.0%)  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MISSED MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN OUR REGION

Chronic absenteeism creates and widens achievement gaps throughout elementary, middle and high school.



Source: Virginia Department of Education

#### RELATED INDICATOR

#### JUVENILE CRIME (2018)



**2,393**  
JUVENILES WERE ARRESTED FOR GROUP A CRIMES

Source: Virginia State Police, Crime in Virginia Report, 2014-2018



## 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.

- We serve as the backbone of the **Petersburg City and Schools Partnership**, which works to create the climate and conditions for every student to succeed by providing a sustainable, coordinated system of supports and access.

## Supported Programs

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

- **Communities in Schools of Chesterfield:** Sustainability and Expansion for Meadowbrook and L.C. Bird
- **Communities in Schools of Richmond:** High Schools & Performance Learning Centers
- **Crater Health District:** HealthSpace Teen Pregnancy Prevention

## How to Help



**DONATE** Make a gift designated to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know that you want your gift to help increase on-time high school graduation rates.



**VOLUNTEER** Give your time to an initiative that supports these efforts. Email [Volunteer@YourUnitedWay.org](mailto:Volunteer@YourUnitedWay.org) and we will help match you with the right opportunity.



**CONNECT** Visit [YourUnitedWay.org](http://YourUnitedWay.org) to learn more about our work and how we're addressing the community's most pressing needs.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
YOUR UNITED WAY**

