



Kindergarten Readiness

In order to be kindergarten-ready, young children need quality early education, strong relationships with families, a safe and secure home environment and regular health and developmental screenings and support.

Today, we know without a doubt that quality early childhood education leads to more success in kindergarten and throughout life. For low-income children, early childhood education is one of the keys to upward mobility. It also leads to a stronger economy for all of us.

This work does not just involve preschools – success requires strong families, safe homes and timely screenings to ensure kids are meeting their developmental milestones.

By the Numbers

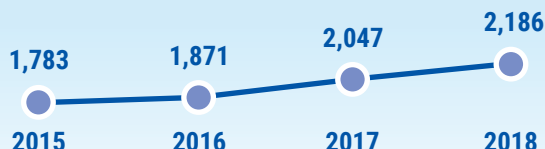
KEY INDICATOR

PALS-K BENCHMARKS (2018)



2,186 (17.7%)

KINDERGARTNERS NOT MEETING PALS-K BENCHMARKS IN 2017



Note: There is an added focus on PALS-K data by all area localities because it is now measured for accreditation standards. Source: Virginia Department of Education, Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) Office, University of Virginia.

RELATED INDICATOR

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE (2018)



2,998

CHILDREN (AGES 0-5) IN OUR REGION DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2014-2018

RELATED INDICATOR

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (2018)



14,964 (54.5%)

CHILDREN IN OUR REGION ARE NOT ENROLLED IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2014-2018

RELATED INDICATOR

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (2018)

1,491

CHILDREN SERVED BY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

(Includes United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg Service Area as well as Emporia, Greenville, Hopewell, Prince George, Surry and Sussex.)



Source: Infant & Toddler Connection (www.infantva.org)



What We Do

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg understands the importance of school readiness, as well as the holistic approach required to truly prepare our young children for kindergarten. That's why we invest in programs that focus on family stability, literacy and social emotional development.

- In 2019, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg launched **Kindergarten Countdown Camp**, a program for rising kindergarten students with limited to no preschool experience. Taught by licensed teachers, Kindergarten Countdown Camp prepares students and their parents for a successful start in kindergarten.
- Throughout the year, we assemble more than 1,000 **United Way Literacy Kits** that are distributed to students in our region. Each kit includes school supplies, an age-appropriate book, information for parents and supplies for children.
- United Way builds and installs **Steps to Success Early Learning Trails** in local parks and other community spaces. These trails help parents, caregivers and communities use everyday moments outdoors to boost school readiness of children in their preschool years.

Supported Programs

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

- **FRIENDS Association for Children:** Preschool
- **Greater Richmond SCAN:** Family Support Program
- **Partnership for Families:** Families Learning Together
- **Sacred Heart Center:** Family Literacy Project
- **Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond:** Smart Beginnings
- **Smart Beginnings Southeast:** Quality Early Childhood Improvement – Petersburg
- **SOAR365:** Pediatric Therapy
- **YWCA Richmond:** The Sprout School

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 prepare children and their families for kindergarten.



VOLUNTEER Give your time to an initiative that supports these efforts. Email Volunteer@YourUnitedWay.org and we will help match you with the right opportunity.



CONNECT Visit 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

