



Third Grade Reading

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

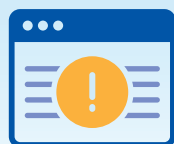
Up to third grade, kids learn to read. After third grade, they read to learn. When it comes to literacy, third grade is where the rubber meets the road. A student who is reading at grade level by third grade is significantly more likely to succeed in later grades and graduate high school on time.

Unfortunately, more than 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 49 percent, compared to the state average of 70.3 percent. If we are to build a better Richmond & Petersburg region, we must work together to improve these numbers.

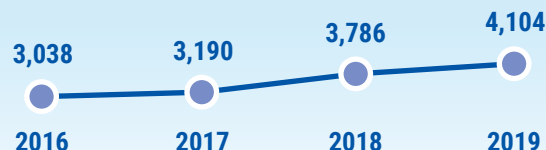
By the Numbers

KEY INDICATOR

THIRD GRADE SOLS (2018)



4,104 (31.9%)
STUDENTS FAILED THE THIRD GRADE READING SOL IN 2019



Source: Virginia Department of Education

RELATED INDICATOR

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM (2018-2019)

6,025 (7.6%)
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS MISSED MORE THAN 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN OUR REGION

Children missing more than 10% of the days in a school year are much more likely to struggle to read at grade level by third grade. Chronic absenteeism creates and widens achievement gaps throughout elementary, middle and high school.

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 serve as the backbone of the **Petersburg City and Schools Partnership**, which works to create the climate and conditions for every child to succeed by providing a sustainable, coordinated system of supports and access.
- Throughout the year, we collect and assemble more than 1,000 **United Way Literacy Kits** that are distributed to students in our region. Each kit includes schools supplies, an age-appropriate book, information for parents and supplies for children.

Supported Programs

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

- **Communities in Schools of Richmond:** Elementary Schools Integrated Student Support
- **Literacy Lab:** Literacy Tutoring
- **Peter Paul Development Center:** Youth Center
- **YMCA of Greater Richmond:** Out-of-School Time – Greater Richmond
- **YMCA of Greater Richmond:** Out-of-School Time – Petersburg

Spotlight

We lead 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.



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 third grade reading proficiency.



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.



YourUnitedWay.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR UNITED WAY

