



# INEQUITIES IN THIRD GRADE READING

[YOURUNITEDWAY.ORG/EQUITYDATASERIES](http://YOURUNITEDWAY.ORG/EQUITYDATASERIES)



United Way of Greater  
Richmond & Petersburg



We used third grade SOL data to identify inequities in *Third Grade Reading* in our region. Here's what we found:



In our service area  
**1 in 4 students**  
is not reading proficiently by third grade.

## WHY THIRD GRADE?

Third grade is a pivotal point for reading. Standardized tests measure student learning and are used as a predictor of future performance. Scores can be used to compare school systems, to determine resource allocation and to track individual school improvements over time.

Black students make up...

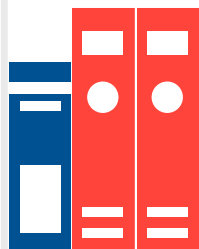
**33%** of total students

But account for...

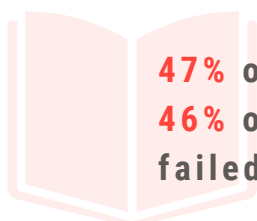
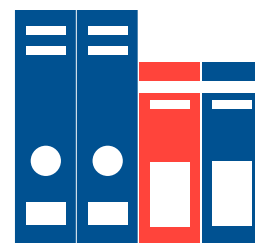
**48%** of failing students



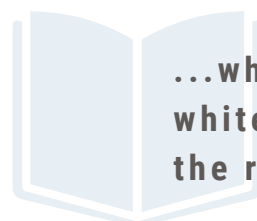
**46%** of low-income students failed the third grade reading SOL compared to only **21%** of students who are not low-income.



**Two out of three students** with a disability failed the third grade reading SOL compared to about **one in four students** without a disability.



**47%** of Black students and **46%** of Hispanic students failed the reading SOL...



...while only **20%** of white students failed the reading SOL.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate today at: [yourunitedway.org/donate](http://yourunitedway.org/donate).  
Your donation helps us make equitable  
*Third Grade Reading* a reality for our region.



# OUR WORK IN EDUCATION EQUITY: *THIRD GRADE READING*



United Way of Greater  
Richmond & Petersburg

As a part of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg's 2020-22 funding cycle, **five** programs at **four** partner agencies supporting *Third Grade Reading* are receiving a total of **\$615,000** in community investments.

## THE LITERACY LAB LITERACY TUTORING



THE LITERACY LAB

The Literacy Lab embeds rigorously trained, full-time AmeriCorps literacy tutors in high-need elementary schools to help improve *Third Grade Reading* skills. In the 2019-20 school year, The Literacy Lab recruited, trained and embedded 46 tutors in elementary schools in Henrico County, Petersburg and Richmond Public Schools. These tutors provided daily literacy intervention to 783 K-3 students with each tutor working with a caseload of 15-18 students and providing 20 minutes of one-on-one evidence-proven reading intervention five days per week. To combat inequities that were exasperated by COVID-19, The Literacy Lab quickly transitioned to a virtual instruction model. By the end of the 2019-2020 school year, tutors had completed 116 virtual support sessions, spent 4,400 minutes supporting students and families on their virtual platform and created 106 videos for students and families to practice literacy skills.

## PETER PAUL DEVELOPMENT CENTER YOUTH PROGRAM



Students served by Peter Paul live in Richmond's East End, which is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the City of Richmond. Peter Paul is located in an area marked by a high concentration of poverty and marred by violence. That area consists of nearly 4,000 students. Recent data shows that 75% of students live in single-parent households, two out of three students live in public housing and 50% live in households that earn less than \$10,000 annually. This program equips students for long-term success by providing them with intensive academics in a supportive community of family and friends. Students receive academic instruction, reading and math assistance, mentoring and tutoring. Key to Peter Paul's program is its individualized approach to academic instruction plan which charts student data, areas of strength and weakness and student aspirations. Peter Paul receives all of their students' report cards from RPS to track their grades, attendance and behavior notes to better inform their after-school instruction.