

# Educational Success

Goal: Young people achieve in school, engage in their community, and are prepared for the workplace.

## Together, we want to ensure that:

- Children begin school ready to learn and are supported academically and socially throughout their educational experience.
- Youth become skilled, self-sufficient and contributing members of the community.

## Our Investment Approach

The Community Foundation's grantmaking will focus on activities that are directly tied to increasing opportunity for low-wealth residents. We will approach our grantmaking decisions through a priority of requirements that include:

- Access and equity for all residents
- High quality programming
- Collaboration with public, private, and other nonprofit partners

We support local nonprofit organizations in providing effective programming and operations, advocacy and systems change, and capacity building. Our partners help ensure regional educational success through the following strategies and activities listed on this page.

## Kindergarten Readiness

### Strategies

- Ensuring access to quality preschool and childcare
- Offering child development-related home visitation
- Engaging parents and caregivers

### Measurements of Success

- PALS benchmarks
- Quality of childcare programs & Virginia Quality scores
- On-time preschool enrollment

## K-12 Academic Success

### Strategies

- Supporting students by increasing the quality or capacity of in-school resources
- Increasing access to quality out-of-school time programs
- Teaching positive behavior and self-management skills
- Engaging parents and caregivers

### Measurements of Success

- # of students who maintained a C or higher, or improved a letter grade, in math/reading/other key subject
- # of students who met academic benchmarks (PALS, SOLs, MAP, obtained a GED, etc.)
- # of students who had good attendance (less than chronically absent) or improved in their attendance
- # of students making gains on measures of positive behavioral skills, confidence & self-reliance, future aspirations, and the learning of life skills.
- Rates of disciplinary incidences, truancy & incidents involving police
- # of teachers recruited, trained & retained
- Quality programs and Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI) scores



*\*The measures above are examples only; this list is not intended to be all-inclusive*

## College and/or Career Readiness

### Strategies

- Developing youth to enter the workforce
- Increasing access and exposure to post-secondary opportunities

### Measurements of Success

- Number and percent of students attaining degrees, certification & credentials

*\*The measures above are examples only; this list is not intended to be all-inclusive*

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## Focus on Regional Indicators

We are focused long-term on affecting regional indicators that we believe are key strategies for helping our region thrive. Aligning with our community partners, like the Capital Region Collaborative, these indicators include:

- **Preschool Enrollment**
- **PALS-K**
- **3rd Grade Reading and Math SOL Scores**
- **8th Grade Reading and Math SOL Scores**
- **On-Time High School Graduation Rate**
- **Children Living in Poverty**