

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 grant-making decisions through a priority of requirements that include:

- Access and equity for all residents
- High quality strengths-based programming
- Policy and advocacy support
- 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.

Early Childhood Development

Strategies

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

Measurements

- Child & youth immunization rates
- Rate of on-time early childhood medical screenings
- # of children served through home visitation
- # of children served through pre-k & childcare programs
- PALS benchmarks
- Quality of childcare programs and 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
- Trauma-informed practices and social/emotional learning

Measurements

- # 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, particularly related to literacy (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 students with post-secondary college/career plans/pathways
- # and % of students attaining degrees, certifications and credentials