



HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

Education is one of the building blocks for a good life. A high school graduate earns upwards of \$240,000 more in a lifetime than a non-graduate. Likewise, a well-educated workforce attracts world-class jobs, fueling the local economy. But in our community, the high school graduation rate hovers around 65%. United Way wants to change that, so we invest over \$5 million each year in local youth programs that are giving kids a real chance at success.

We start with early childhood education for preschoolers and kindergarteners, continue with tutoring and mentoring for grade-schoolers, and follow through with after-school programming, school-to-work and scholarship opportunities for high school students.

UNITED WAY EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Increase the Number of Children Who:	What United Way is Doing	Why
Enter school ready to succeed	Investing in early childhood education.	Research shows that as much as half of school failure is due to gaps in school readiness before a child transitions to kindergarten. Today, more than one-third of kindergarteners do not have the basic skills they need to succeed in school.
Read proficiently by 4th grade	Mentoring and tutoring programs.	Until 3rd grade, children are learning to read. After 4th grade, they're reading to learn. By 4th grade, a child's grades and absenteeism rates can predict with 90% accuracy whether he or she will graduate from high school on time.
Graduate from high school on time.	Quality after-school programs.	Today's young Americans are less likely to earn a diploma than their parents, a distinction not shared by any other industrialized country. Researchers cite engaging in risky behaviors as a primary warning sign for dropping out -- equally important as academic performance and attendance.
Are prepared for success in college, work and life.	Scholarship opportunities, leadership development and career exploration to help our young people build a lifetime of success -- and break the cycle of poverty.	Kids who learn more, earn more. Nearly half of individuals living in poverty are without a high school diploma. Over the course of his or her lifetime, high school graduates earn \$260,000 more compared to those without a diploma. A student with an Associates degree will earn \$400,000 more and an individual with a Bachelors degree will earn nearly three times more.

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United Way
of Greater Milwaukee