



# EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SCHOOL READINESS

APRIL 2024 EDITION



An education initiative of:



## Preparing Children for School

### Issue

Children who are not proficient in reading by the end of third grade are **four times** more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.

### Solution

*Ready for School, Ready to Succeed*, United Way of the Capital Region's school readiness initiative strives to improve reading proficiency by preparing children for kindergarten.

### Results

**65% of participants in kindergarten** are proficient in reading versus **42%** of their peers not in the program.

**56% of participants in first grade** are proficient in reading versus **32%** of their peers not in the program.

**60% of participants in second grade** are proficient in reading versus **34%** of their peers not in the program.

**59% of participants in third grade** are proficient in reading versus **24%** of their peers not in the program.

**55% of participants scored proficient in reading\*** on the PSSA test versus **44%** of their peers not in the program.

\* PSSA data is for four reporting districts (Cumberland Valley, Mechanicsburg, Newport and West Perry).

We engage families to prepare children academically and socially for kindergarten by:

- Connecting families to affordable preschool (if available).
- Helping families needing tuition assistance.
- Connecting families with early intervention and support services.
- Holding free education workshops.
- Registering students for kindergarten.

### PROGRAM OUTPUTS



**946 children** enrolled in preschools

**48,756 individuals** have participated in **3,636 workshops**.

**938 students** were registered on-time for kindergarten.



Through our work with community partners, we work to increase the number of children ready for school, and the reading proficiency of third grade students, which increases their chances of high school graduation.

## CORE SOLUTION PARTNERS AND ROLES

### Backbone Organization and Funding Source

United Way of the Capital Region



### Lead Service Provider

- Capital Area Intermediate Unit employs the education liaisons which are funded by United Way.

### Partner Schools

- Central Dauphin School District
- Cumberland Valley School District
- East Pennsboro Area School District
- Greenwood School District
- Harrisburg School District\*
- Mechanicsburg Area School District\*
- Newport School District\*
- Steelton-Highspire School District
- Susquehanna Township School District
- Susquenita School District
- West Perry School District

\*Original Partner School districts.

### Support Service Provider Receiving Funding from United Way

- CONTACT Helpline, Inc. – 211 Information and Referral Services

### Subject Experts

- Bright Futures Learning Center, Inc.
- Capital Area Head Start
- Community Connections for Children
- Dauphin County Library System
- The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
- Office of Child Development and Early Learning
- Penn State Harrisburg
- Perry County Literacy Council
- PNC
- Safe Kids Capital Region
- South Central PA Highway Safety

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

### Race of participants:

- 71% identify as White
- 15% identify as Multiracial/Other
- 11% identify as Black/African American
- 3% identify as Asian

### Ethnicity of participants:

- 96% identify as not Hispanic/Latino
- 4% identify as Hispanic/Latino