UNITED WAY
Quad Cities

UNITED FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT IS UNITED FOR SCHOOLS

United for Schools (UFS) is United Way's place based strategy that wraps around students and families with coordinated support services so they can focus on learning. United Way QC leads a coalition of partners who align resources, track outcomes, and deploy site coordinators in our highest need schools. It is not a program handed to schools; it is a community owning the solution together.

THE CHALLENGE - WHY THESE SCHOOLS

4X more likely to be chronically absent vs non-Title I schools

2X higher suspension rates vs non-Title I schools

58% 3rd grade reading proficiency - community rate

80% Rise United 2030 community reading goal

These are the problems UFS is working to solve

CURRENT REACH

4 DISTRICTS

6 SCHOOLS

2,700 STUDENTS

Schools are selected based on chronic absenteeism rates, academic performance, and concentration of students experiencing poverty – the places where coordinated investment can move the needle most.

THE MODEL - HOW IT WORKS

SITE COORDINATOR

A trusted adult at each school connects families and students to services to improve course performance, reduce behavior referrals, and increase attendance.

PARTNER COALITION

United Way aligns service providers, businesses, and schools around shared goals and data - eliminating duplication and increasing the impact of strategic investments.

SHARED DATA

The United Way Education Council, Quad Cities Education Data Exchange, and daily school records support strong data driven decision making to ensure resources are targeted where they can make the greatest impact.

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EARLY RESULTS, LASTING IMPACT

DATA DRIVEN MODEL

To drive lasting change, federal, state, and local governments must prioritize place-based models that deliver personalized support at scale.

Groundbreaking findings from a new Harvard–Cornell study confirm that approaches like United for Schools produce powerful, long-term outcomes well beyond the classroom:

5.2% High School Graduation Increase

9.1% Two-Year College Enrollment Increase

15% Reduction In Adult Crime Rate

Cost-effective. Each $1,000 invested in our model has been shown to raise adult earnings by $406, compared to roughly $40 for a $1,000 investment in class-size reductions.

Strong return on public investment. A three-year investment in our model (approx. $3,000/student) is projected to generate $7,100 in lifetime federal tax revenue, yielding a $2.36 return for every dollar invested.

$75K additional lifetime earnings.

EMERGING TRENDS

After a year and a half of investment and staff time in some of our highest need schools, we are starting to see meaningful changes in attendance, course performance, and behavior. True long-term trends can't be identified until the close of year three - making these initial impacts that much more exciting.

12% attendance improvement at one UFS site

23% decline in major behavior referrals at behavior-focused site

4 OUT OF 5 schools improved 3rd grade reading proficiency, with an average gain of 7%

Rise United 2030 represents United Way Quad Cities foundational goals through the end of the decade. United for Schools most directly impacts our goal of 80% of Quad Cities 3rd graders reading at grade level. We have a long way to go, but when we see 7% increases in our most at-risk schools - we know the work we're doing is making the Quad Cities a place where everyone can learn, earn, and thrive.

RISE UNITED 2030 - READING PROFICIENCY GOAL



UFS is the primary strategy driving progress toward this community-wide goal. Closing the 22-point gap by 2030 requires sustained investment in the six highest-need schools.

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