

IMPACT AREA PROGRAM OUTCOMES EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



United Way Suncoast provides pathways to education and financial stability that give everyone in our community the freedom to rise. Our community impact strategy leads us to invest funds and resources into specific communities where our ALICE families live. By identifying zones of focus for our investments, we ensure that our partnerships are best positioned to maximize and multiply impact.

CURRENT COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

UWS Schools of Focus Kindergarten Readiness
STAR Assessment for 2021 – 2022 school year

District Name	% of VPK Completers "Ready For Kindergarten"	% of non-VPK completing students "Ready for Kindergarten"
DeSoto	45%	22%
Hillsborough	64%	37%
Manatee	61%	28%
Pinellas	70%	39%
Sarasota	64%	45%

3rd Grade Reading Scores for UWS Schools of Focus by County (English Language Arts test for 2022-2023 school year). Scoring Level 3 and above is "on or above grade level."

District Name	District Avg % students reading on grade level	UWS Schools of Focus % Avg students reading on grade level
DeSoto	33%	33%
Hillsborough	46%	23%
Manatee	47%	24%
Pinellas	53%	34%
Sarasota	61%	40%

Before third grade, students are learning how to read. In third grade, students begin reading to learn. This is why United Way Suncoast is focused on ensuring all third grade students read on grade level.

- When a young child enters kindergarten ready for school, there is an 82% chance that child will master basic skills by age 11, compared with a 45% chance for children who are not school ready. While the five-county K-readiness rate is about 50% across the region, in priority schools, only 1 in 3 kindergartners enter school ready to learn. (2022-23 data)
- Across the UWS region, students who complete VPK are more likely to score highly on Kindergarten Readiness testing. On average, twice as many students who complete VPK are ready for kindergarten, compared to those who do not.

- In UWS schools of focus, only 29% of students are reading on or above grade level, compared to 50% in the five-county region at large. (2022-2023 FAST data)
 - On average, 62% of students who are identified as economically disadvantaged are reading below grade level per 2021-2022 FSA scores.
 - Across our five-county region, only 26% of students identified as homeless are reading at or above grade level vs. 52% of students who are housed per 2021-2022 FSA Scores.

Workforce & Cost

- The average early child care worker salary is only \$33,000 in the Suncoast region, which is well below the \$56,000 living wage for a single adult needed as reported by United for ALICE (2023).
- On average, child care in the suncoast region costs more than a year of tuition at University of South Florida, coming in at \$9,000 annually.

WHAT UWS AND PARTNERS ARE DOING TO FILL THE GAPS:

United Way Suncoast Investments and Partnerships

- Including the work led by United Way Suncoast, we invested \$4,451,992 into improving kindergarten readiness, increasing grade level reading, and removing barriers to education access.
- 169 partnerships, programs, and initiatives focusing on Early Learning. Within the last year, these partnerships served 31,900 people across all five counties with 87% of those served identified as ALICE.

Who We Serve

- In collaboration with our food distribution programs, an additional 26,536 nutritious meals were provided to over 10,000 households. This led to a total of over 40,000 children served through Early Learning programs in the Suncoast region. 87% of those children and families identify as ALICE.
- Of the known households served, about 1 in 2 (or 48.2%) were single parent with children under the age of 18. In 2023 we saw a 14% increase in single parent households.

United Way Suncoast Programming

- Our Quality Childcare Initiative, United We Learn, and Campbell Park Network for Early Learning provided over 4,400 hours of training dedicated to teacher development and resources.
- 13,334 age-appropriate books and reading materials were distributed to children and their families to promote literacy.
- Held 660 hours of Reading Room programming, providing a space for children and families to engage with both educational and financial stability resources.

- UWS supported 525 scholarships to 10 Summer care programs at 20 sites within Hillsborough and Pinellas county to prevent summer slide.
- Almost three-quarters of scholarship recipient's families have a household income below \$50,000 annually.
- 83% of summer care students maintained or grew their academic skills over the summer through these programs.

United We Learn Outcomes (Achieved by our partners and programming)

- 6,192 3rd-grade students achieved the goal of reading on grade level or are set on the path to achieve within the last year.
- 5,953 of children 0-5 who demonstrate age appropriate communication, vocabulary and/or other early literacy skills or progress.
- Additional support for barriers to school readiness: 10,451 households received food support through our school-based food distribution partners and, 3,945 students received additional support for asthma, dental, vision, and hearing loss issues.

United Way Suncoast Programs and Initiatives:

- Campbell Park Network for Early Learning
- Quality Childcare Initiative
- Reading Rooms
- Summer Care
- United We Learn

United Way Education Programs: <https://unitedwaysuncoast.org/what-we-do/education/>

Early Learning Dashboard: <https://unitedwaysuncoast.org/what-we-do/education/state-of-early-learning-a-childcare-crisis-2/>