

Best practice.....United for Children

United for Children (UfC) is a cross-sector public-private partnership focused on driving educational success for our most vulnerable children.

More than 41,000 children in South Hampton Roads are living in poverty; more than 21,000 of them live in extreme poverty (under 50% of the poverty line). Because earning a diploma is the single most powerful predictor of a child’s ability to break the cycle of generational poverty, UfC has created a holistic approach to aligning our community’s continuum of support for high-needs children. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty for these children. Partners around the region have come together to invest in this best practice for reducing poverty through removing barriers to education for our poorest children.

This effort is intended to:

- Leverage existing resources and a diverse set of stakeholders throughout our community
- Create systems change that impacts our entire community regardless of income or location
- Engage and empower all stakeholders throughout our community including children, parents, professionals, philanthropists and funders, policy makers, etc.

United for Children focuses on the “whole child,” providing students extra time with high quality teachers, supporting emotional and physical health, and offering enrichment activities that help children develop essential skills in teamwork, communication, responsibility, critical thinking, and resilience. Extra time includes both summer programs and extending the regular school day.

United for Children was launched in 2013 in Norfolk’s P.B Young Elementary School and Tidewater Park Elementary School. In the summer of 2016, United for Children will be in five Norfolk schools and two in Suffolk, with plans to expand to other schools and other jurisdictions.

Academic successes in the first year include significant improvements in SOL test scores for those participating in Extended Day and Summer programs.

For more information about United for Children, visit <http://unitedwayshr.org/content/index.php/UnitedforChildren.htm>.

