



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania

*serving Allegheny, Butler, Westmoreland,
Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties*

EDUCATION FOCUS AREA IMPACT STRATEGIES

Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Counties

THREE PRIORITY AREAS



SCHOOL READINESS

A child's future success in school depends heavily on how well they are prepared for kindergarten. Early academic and social skills learned between birth and five-years-old play a vital role in brain development. Ninety percent of a child's brain development occurs in these early years, so it is critical that we support programming within the community and home to increase high quality educational experiences and promote positive development. Support is needed to provide meaningful opportunities and improve outcomes for the region's youngest learners.



PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Programs promoting positive actions and behaviors play a key role in a child's development during and beyond the early years. Education professionals throughout the region have identified prevention as an increasing need. Youth are entering area classrooms with additional social and emotional concerns that cannot be fully addressed by classroom teachers and counselors within each school building. Continued support will enable community organizations to work together with families and school district personnel to address these issues.



CAREER & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Career and workforce development has been an ongoing effort for all 25 school districts in our service area. This focus has been intensified over the last few years since the release of "Inflection Points" by the Allegheny Conference. The study identified a looming labor shortage for the region as well as the need for the entire education community to address the emerging workforce. Supporting existing programs and establishing creative ways to address the workforce of the future are critical to the success of our region's economy.

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Recruiting new human service agencies and raising awareness of the Impact Fund process continues to be a major focus. Utilizing multiple outreach methods, mainly social media and the many established relationships within United Way's network, will drive awareness, increase volunteerism and grow impact throughout the region.