

**UNITED WAY OF THE PIEDMONT
2011-2015 COMMUNITY IMPACT AGENDA**

EDUCATION

Children, youth and adults have access to quality education that supports academic and social success.

Barrier: Many children do not enter kindergarten ready to learn.
Needed Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase access to quality, affordable early care and education for children birth through kindergarten.• Improve family and caregiver ability to support social and language development in young children.• Enhance the community's ability to identify children with developmental vulnerabilities and offer early intervention.

Barrier: Many children do not move successfully from kindergarten through high school graduation.
Needed Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen ability of youth to make good decisions and avoid adolescent risk behaviors.• Increase the involvement of families, caregivers and the community in the academic success of our youth.• Provide for character and leadership development among all children and youth.• Improve basic academic skills of children performing below grade level.• Develop diverse and flexible educational options for a variety of learners.

Barrier: Many high school graduates do not further their education in vocational training, technical education or college.
Needed Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase support of programs designed to guide youth from high school to higher education.• Enhance collaboration between schools, institutions of higher learning, and community organizations targeted at increasing the number of high school graduates who pursue higher education.• Increase community responsiveness to the impact of culture and attitude on education.