



# UNITED WE SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF OUR COMMUNITY

LIVE UNITED

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Everyone knows that a quality education is a key building block for a good quality of life. A good quality of life leads to greater chances for success throughout a person's life.

Cedar Valley United Way is helping children and youth achieve their full potential by working toward the following goals:

- Supporting pre-school children in accessing high-quality, early learning programs that prepare them for kindergarten, and appropriate proficiency levels
- Helping students access high-quality, enriching out of school programs that are aligned with school-day curriculum
- Ensuring students have support and encouragement for educational success from engaged parents, advocates and mentors
- Enabling junior high and high school students to access age-appropriate college and career preparation in order to graduate equipped with skills for success

Data tells us that investments we are making are working. But there is still room for improvement. Cedar Valley United Way is strategically investing in education programs that are giving children a stronger educational foundation. We're providing mentors, preschool and childcare scholarships, learning opportunities and much more.

Programs funded in 2022 - 2024 to improve education in the Cedar Valley Include:

*Early Education:*

- Childcare Support | \$18,500  
Cedar Valley Preschool
- Quality Child Care Services | \$44,800  
Growing Minds Early Learning Center
- RSVP Primetime Reading Buddies | \$5,000  
Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley

*Afterschool and Summer Learning:*

- Project Learn | \$20,000  
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley

*College and Career Preparation:*

- Summer Nurse Camp | \$5,000  
Allen College
- iJAG: Creating Inclusive Career Pathways for Underserved Youth | \$40,000  
iJAG

- Leader in Me | \$5,000  
Leader Valley Foundation

*Parent and Mentor Support:*

- Home Visitation Program | \$40,000  
Operation Threshold
- Parents Achieving Success with Support | \$10,000  
YWCA of Black Hawk County
- Wize Girlz | \$10,000  
YWCA of Black Hawk County

TOTAL EDUCATION GRANTS: \$198,300



69.9%

OF 4TH GRADERS IN BLACK HAWK COUNTY READ PROFICIENTLY

Compared to 73.1% of all 4th grade students in Iowa.

Children who can't read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are 4x more likely to drop out of school.

By investing in Cedar Valley United Way's education initiatives, we can empower these students to achieve their dreams.

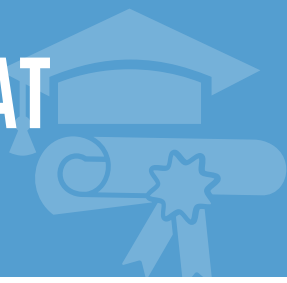
Cedar Valley United Way supports students, their academic achievement and social connectedness, to help create a brighter future for all.



Cedar Valley United Way

[www.cedarvalleyunitedway.org/education](http://www.cedarvalleyunitedway.org/education)

# THE CEDAR VALLEY IS A COMMUNITY THAT CARES ABOUT EDUCATION.



2,500

children in the Cedar Valley received a book from our Books for Babies program in 2022.



85.6%

was the average graduation rate in Black Hawk County for the 2022 school year, whereas the state average is 89.9%\*.



2

is the number of months of reading skills lost over the summer without enrollment in a summer learning program.

*"Niya\*\* was a participant in our program in the summer, and reenrolled in the program during the school year. She was somewhat shy, and kept to herself at the beginning of each session. With some encouragement from our staff and her peers, she began engaging more and making friends in the program. When she was asked what she liked about the program, Niya responded 'I like making new friends.' Through this program, she also learned about setting goals, how to maintain healthy relationships, making good choices, and reducing or preventing risky behavior. Additionally, Niya showed at least 25% improvement on her pre- and post-tests about healthy relationships, internet safety and college planning. Throughout her time in this program, Niya was more positive and friendlier to those around her and said she feels good about her future. 'Because this program taught me if you act positive, then things will become truly positive.'"*

- Cedar Valley United Way Community Partner Testimonial



\*data pulled from [educatelowa.gov](http://educatelowa.gov)  
\*\*name changed to ensure anonymity

