

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROVIDES A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE

Supporting youth during time spent outside the classroom creates
success in school, work and life.



Metro United Way



While 79% of local high school students graduate on time, only 61% graduate college and career ready.

ACHIEVING A MILESTONE OF SUCCESS

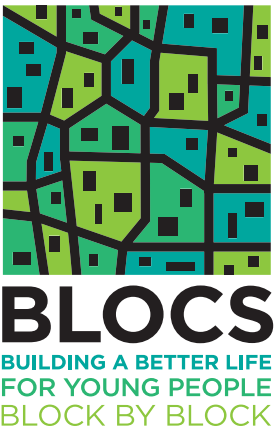
At Metro United Way, we believe that when everyone has the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential through education, financial stability and healthy lives – the building blocks for a good quality of life – the benefits ripple throughout our entire community.

The purpose of establishing a system that helps steer local students toward high-quality out-of-school time (OST) programs can be summed up in one word – READINESS. The relationships formed and life skills gained during OST programs help young people be prepared in life to navigate situations without being derailed and take advantage of opportunities while managing life challenges.

Metro United Way is committed to ensuring that students all across our community graduate high school on time in order to succeed. Rather than overgeneralizing individuals as “struggling” and “thriving,” Metro United Way wants to change the conversation to focus on **striving**, and – through our quality OST programs – we can provide a stronger educational foundation to help young people with the abilities, skills and mindsets to STRIVE and be READY for college, work and life.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BY THE NUMBERS

- JCS research revealed that kids who participate in OST programs are 12% less likely to drop out of school as their peers.
- 2/3 of the achievement gap between low and high income students is attributed to summer learning loss.
- People who fail to complete high school by age 20 are 50% more likely to have sporadic employment.
- Metro United Way funds OST programs in approximately 16 organizations each year, reaching over 20,000 youth.



BLOCS PARTNERSHIP

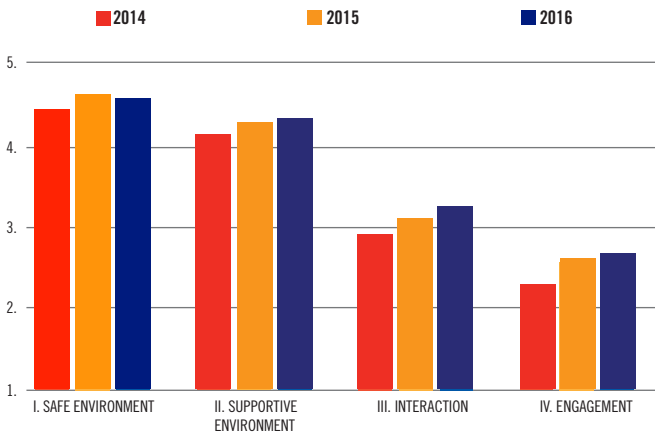
College and career readiness should be a right of every student regardless of income or where they live. Through a key partnership with JCPS, Louisville Metro Government and the Louisville Alliance for Youth – BLOCS (Building Louisville’s OST Coordinated System) – we’re building an out-of-school time (OST) network that focuses on the quality, availability, access and continuous improvement of OST programs.

Parents and youth can search for high quality OST programs in their area by visiting the BLOCS website at www.louisvilleblocs.org or dialing 2-1-1.

QUALITY PROGRAMS MATTER

Research shows that quality programs practice positive youth development principles. They provide youth with practical knowledge and social-emotional skills that help young people strive and transition successfully into adulthood. Through BLOCS, Metro United Way is leading efforts to improve the quality of OST programming throughout the community. These efforts are paying off as program quality continues to improve across all quality areas below!

Louisville Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA)
Comparison 2014 through 2016



SUMMER LEARNING

For young people, summer represents an opportunity for experiences that enrich and complement the school year to promote learning and development.

However, as the school doors close, many students struggle to access educational opportunities to learn and practice essential skills, which leads to falling behind on measures of academic achievement over the summer months – otherwise known as the “summer slide.”

Working together with BLOCS partners, Metro United Way offers annual trainings and resources for summer youth workers, financial assistance to summer programs, and summer enrichment opportunities for youth in order to prevent summer learning loss.

Beat Summer Learning Loss!

- 1 month** equivalent drop in test scores between spring & fall tests
- 2 months** grade-level equivalent reading loss in low-income students
- 2.6 months** grade-level equivalency in mathematical computation skills is lost during the summer
- 3 months** grade-level equivalent average loss in math & reading
- 66%** teachers spend 3-4 weeks re-teaching students course material at the beginning of the school year
- 24%** teachers spend at least 5 - 6 weeks re-teaching material from the previous school year



PATH TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Readiness is the goal of Metro United Way’s work throughout the entire education pipeline – from cradle to career. Studies show that quality education leads to better income and a healthier life. That’s why Metro United Way is committed to making sure our children enter kindergarten ready to learn, help our youth stay in school, remain on grade level and graduate high school on time prepared for college, work and life.

Here’s how community resources can help our children succeed in school and in life – starting from birth.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Thanks to Metro United Way’s initiatives that helped me to be prepared in school, I am now graduating with top honors and am ready to start college and succeed in life!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS/ VOLUNTEERS

Because of coordinated activities with partners like UPS, I participated in enrichment activities and field trips to places like the UPS Flight Simulator with my OST group. I’m now dreaming about my future and pursuing a career in aviation!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

My mom went to a ‘parent café’ at my after-school program and learned it would help me to have a set homework time each day, so now I do.



OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

I participate in quality out-of-school time (OST) programs that help me continue to learn, build relationships with my coach or tutor and practice leadership skills.



KINDERGARTEN READINESS

My parents enrolled me in a quality early learning center, like an Excellence Academy center, to help me enter kindergarten ready to learn because children who start out behind, tend to stay behind.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Metro United Way
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