

COMMUNITY GOAL: All children experience quality early learning, so they start school ready to succeed

KEY EARLY LEARNING MEASURES IN OUR COMMUNITY:



Statewide, most 4-year-olds attend public preschool, but few 3-year-olds do

HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:

- Increase family support resources for parent-led at home early learning
- Increase the number of accredited and quality-rated preschool programs
- Expand the number of children enrolled in preschool, focusing on expanding access to quality programs that offer all-day and 3-year-old options & those operating in areas underserved by preschool or child care

SHARE OF 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS NOT ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL

49% in Johnson County

38% in Washington County



COMMUNITY GOAL:

All youth and their families have access to basic needs and social and emotional supports so children are ready to learn

KEY MEASURES OF OF YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORT IN OUR COMMUNITY:

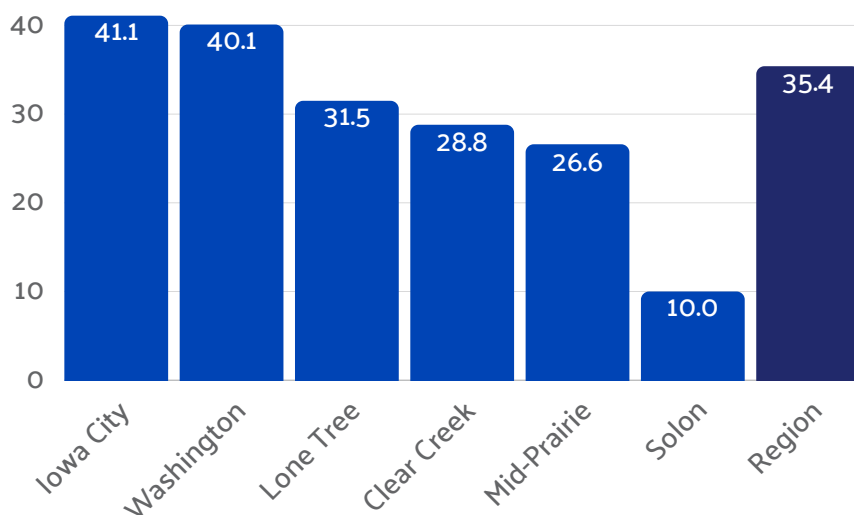


Region-wide, more than a third of students rely on free or reduced-price school meals



Students largely feel connected to school, but the degree of connection varies by group

PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICED MEALS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT





HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:

- Expand access to non-academic support services by implementing models that meet the unique needs of local schools and districts
- Increase access to career advising so students better understand their education and job options
- Increase family support services to help parents meet basic needs and foster strong, nurturing relationships with their children

COMMUNITY GOAL: All students are prepared academically for a wide range of careers

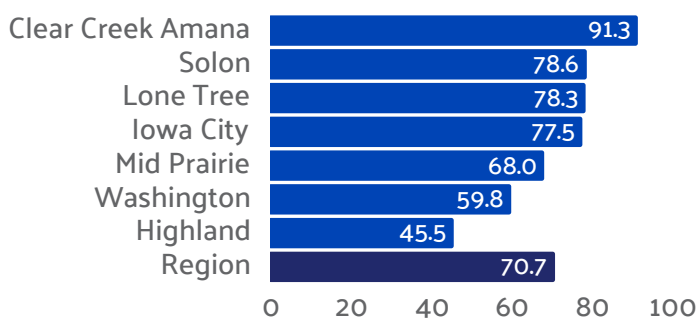
KEY CAREER-READINESS MEASURES IN OUR COMMUNITY:

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Nearly one-third of eighth graders are **not proficient in math**
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Overall, 9 of 10 students graduate from high school on time, but some groups – notably **students with disabilities** and those in rural areas – **have much lower graduation rates**

PERCENT OF EIGHTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN MATH BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



9.2%

of the region's graduating seniors did not intend to go on any additional education or training or join the military

SHARE OF 18- AND 19-YEAR-OLDS NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

8%

in Johnson County

25%

in Washington County

HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOALS:

- **Expand opportunities** for students to participate in career academies, trade programs, and apprenticeships
- Increase access to **job and life mentoring** to help students develop skills for future careers
- Increase access to **career advising** so students better understand their education and job options

UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

FUND & COLLABORATE

We're investing in **cradle-to-career education** by supporting **quality child care and early childhood education**, including programs like **Reading Buddies** and **Math Kits** to foster early learning and build strong connections with families. We know that parents are children's first teachers. We also lead initiatives that prepare youth for success in the classroom and beyond, through **tutoring, mentoring and social-emotional learning** such as empathy and confidence.

ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

United Way advocates for youth opportunities by **raising awareness** of early learning gaps, expanding preschool access, and supporting parent-led education at home. It strengthens family support through services that address **basic needs and mental health** while promoting student engagement and belonging. To enhance academic and career readiness, United Way advocates for **career academies, apprenticeships, and mentoring programs** while addressing proficiency gaps in reading and math. By sharing critical data, increasing resources, and advocating for policy changes, United Way ensures all children have access to quality education and support systems that prepare them for future success.