**EDUCATION**

A high school diploma is key to college and career readiness.

**UNITED WAY OF NEW YORK CITY’S EDUCATION STRATEGIES AT WORK**

**IMPROVING EARLY GRADE LITERACY**

By improving classroom quality, Supporting Transitions from Early-education to Public School (STEPS) seeks to ensure that a child’s learning and developmental needs are continuously met from early education and leading up to age 8—ensuring that they master essential reading and math skills, a critical foundation for success in middle school, high school and beyond.

The Women’s Leadership Council (WLC) raises critical support for United Way of New York City’s youth empowerment initiatives, which include efforts to boost early grade literacy and on-time graduation rates and to curb childhood obesity in Head Start early education programs.

**IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES**

Graduate, Prepare, Succeed (GPS-NYC) targets ninth graders with a history of chronic absenteeism in 60 underserved public schools and provides them with academic support, attendance outreach, counseling, and case management in order to improve on-time graduation rates and college readiness.

If Congress does not act to reduce the deficit by January 2013, automatic across-the-board cuts will take place, resulting in a loss of $130 million in funding for education in New York State alone. United Way of New York City is urging Congress to pursue deficit reduction efforts that do not compromise education.

**ONLY 29% OF NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL FOURTH GRADERS ARE PROFICIENT IN READING.**

**ONLY 39% OF NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL 9TH GRADERS FAIL TO GRADUATE FOUR YEARS LATER.**

**ONLY 21% OF NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES SCORE HIGH ENOUGH ON STATE TESTS TO BE CONSIDERED PREPARED FOR COLLEGE.**

For more information, visit unitedwaynyc.org