

NEWS RELEASE

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Toledo Public Schools
The Power Of Learning

United Way
of Greater Toledo



Toledo Public Schools and United Way announce latest partnership

TOLEDO, Ohio – As part of Toledo Public Schools (TPS) and United Way of Greater Toledo’s ongoing partnership, the two organizations announced a new Graduation Coaches project today.

Through the United Way *AmeriCorps* program, Graduation Coaches will be placed at schools throughout TPS to help provide support to students in the eighth/ninth grade transition who have barriers to attendance.

“We’re really excited to bring our *AmeriCorps* program more in line with our education work by providing this support,” said Bill Kitson, United Way of Greater Toledo president & CEO. “Research shows the majority of dropouts are lost during the eighth/ninth grade transition, so this is just one more support we can offer on the age continuum of our effort to graduate kids.”

Coaches will serve side-by-side with guidance counselors and other school professionals, identifying barriers to each student’s attendance. The Coach will then assist in developing and implementing a personalized graduation action plan for that student. This will include holding one-on-one or small group coaching sessions to provide support, help, guidance, and connection to resources for these students who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

“Toledo Public Schools is pleased to get this partnership off the ground,” said Brian Murphy, TPS assistant superintendent. “Partners like United Way are really helping us do some of this personalized, one-on-one work we don’t always have capacity for. We’re really excited about the impact this will have on our students.”

These United Way *AmeriCorps* members serving as Graduation Coaches are giving a year of service. *AmeriCorps* members address critical needs in communities all across America, and United Way of Greater Toledo is focusing its members on education. Members are highly trained to do this work, while receiving a living stipend, education award, and professional development in exchange for this year of service.

Learn more about this and all of United Way’s work at www.unitedwaytoledo.org.

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United Way of Greater Toledo, serving Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties, changes lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community. United Way is focused on the building blocks for a good life: **education, income, and health**. Starting at the root, United Way addresses the circumstances that destabilize communities. United Way recruits people and organizations who bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer – that’s how to **LIVE UNITED**. For more information, visit www.unitedwaytoledo.org.