GET INVOLVED IN MIDDLE GRADE SUCCESS

United Way is working to ensure that middle grades success and transition to high school is a national priority. Join us in raising awareness about the importance of the middle grades. Here are five things you can do:

1. **Get informed.** Read the report “Putting Middle Grade Students on the Graduation Path” and new report on how to increase the capacities of youth workers to keep middle grade youth on track.

2. **Contact your congressional representative about supporting the middle grades,** especially investments in mentoring, out-of-school time, STEM initiatives and career exploration opportunities that are specifically focused on this age group.

3. **Advocate on the state and local level.** Reach out to your state education officials and find out if teachers are required to get certified in middle grades education. Ask your local school board leaders to work with districts to track attendance, grades and behavior in the middle grades.

4. **Become a tutor or mentor for a middle grade student,** or offer to volunteer your time, talent and expertise in an afterschool program that serves middle grades students. **Take United Way’s pledge.**

5. **Raise awareness about the middle grades on social media.** Share your own personal stories about your child’s (or your own) middle grades experience. Use hashtags #kidswin and #liveunited.