



Support Beyond the Classroom: Helping Students Thrive Through Community Schools

At United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, we know that thriving students are the foundation of thriving communities. But for many families, barriers like mental health, physical challenges or inconsistent access to support can make that path harder.

[United Way Community Schools](#) are designed to help. With a full-time coordinator in each building, Community Schools connect students and families to resources like after-school programs, food, clothing and mental health care, removing the obstacles that stand in the way of learning.

When Nahla started fourth grade last year at Paxinosa Elementary School in Easton, mornings used to bring a sense of dread. Her anxiety made walking into a classroom full of unfamiliar faces overwhelming. She missed school often, but things began to shift with help from the school's United Way-supported resources. With patience and encouragement, Nahla began easing into her days, one step at a time.

"I didn't like that I was late all of the time, but I started getting better little by little. Now I'm happier that I make it on time," Nahla shared.

With consistent support, Nahla began thriving in academics and building her confidence. Today, she's not only excelling in reading and math, but she's also part of a student leadership group helping younger students feel supported.

When we surround students like Nahla with what they need to succeed, we lay the foundation for stronger communities, because when we are **UNITED**, **students thrive.** [Give today.](#)

