



## **United for Kids: United Way Community Schools Improve Academic Success by Promoting Social-Emotional Wellness and Attendance**

Many students arrive at school carrying the invisible burden of trauma, which impacts their ability to focus, regulate emotions and engage in learning. These challenges affect children across all backgrounds and lead to struggles with attendance, behavior and academic performance.

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley is dedicated to removing these barriers to education so **more students can graduate ready for life, career or college**. Through our signature solution, United Way Community Schools, we support over 19,814 students by fostering social-emotional learning, improving student attendance and engagement, encouraging positive relationships with families and supporting behavioral health.

Sheridan Elementary School in the Allentown School District, one of 33 United Way Community Schools, recognized a significant need for social-emotional learning and introduced a skill-building program in partnership with Cohesion Network.

Cohesion Network uses their engaging curriculum to help students develop crucial social-emotional skills and manage behavioral health challenges. Their program has profoundly impacted students like Paris, Dasiel and Jeremy. The 11-year-olds initially struggled with defensive behavior and peer relationships. Now, they enthusiastically recall how Cohesion's program helped them find new ways to cope and positively handle conflict.

**Thanks to supporters like you, United Way is here to provide essential support that helps our students thrive both inside and outside the classroom. [Give today.](#)**