

# Educational Attainment



We will be a city that partners with the education and business community to create an innovative, engaging, inspiring and challenging learning environment for all students and adult learners that fuels the workforce of tomorrow.

## Why it matters

An individual's level of education has a direct impact on income, skills and the opportunities that people have to lead healthier lives in their community, and its importance cannot be overstated. In Manassas, only 81.3% of the City's population has a high school degree or higher compared to 88.8% in Prince William County and 89% in Virginia. Accordingly, Manassas residents ranked the quality of education as one of their top priorities in the 2018 Citizen Satisfaction Survey and only 55% of

residents rate the City satisfactory "as a Place to Raise & Educate Children," compared to 70% of residents across the U.S. that were asked the same question about their communities.



## Goal 1

*Develop multiple pathways to success allowing all students to reach their full potential.*

### Objectives

- 1.1** Increase the rate of students graduating with a high school diploma within the City to 90%.
- 1.2** Increase the percentage of working age adults residing in the City with High School Diploma/GED credentials, Associates Degree/Certifications and, Bachelor's Degrees.
- 1.3** Increase the availability of and participation in early childhood initiatives in the City.
- 1.4** Foster unique partnerships to set the City's educational opportunities apart from other communities.

### Success Measures

- 1.** The percentage of Manassas students graduating from high school by 2025 will exceed 83%.
- 2.** The percentage of working adults in Manassas with milestone credentials (i.e. a High School Diploma/GED, Associates Degree/Certification or Bachelor's Degree) will meet regional averages within 5 years.
- 3.** There will be at least 2 unique partnerships between educational institutions and City government or businesses within the next 5 years.
- 4.** The number of Manassas preschoolers enrolled in an early childhood initiative will increase over the next 5 years.





## Goal 2

*Ensure that the education system within the City is welcoming and open, communicates successes and opportunities with students and parents, and builds new relationships within the community.*



### Objectives

- 2.1** Identify all local resources that can promote and provide information on educational opportunities to the entire community (public/private/home school/underserved).
- 2.2** Engage with MCPS on a plan for the conversion of the existing police building into a new school administrative building.
- 2.3** Build bridges to develop new community partnerships that increase the after-hour usage of public-school and community facilities.

### Success Measures

- 1.** Development of a clearing house for educational opportunities available to the entire community within the first year of the strategic plan implementation followed by use of the clearing house.
- 2.** Increase in the percentage of residents that rate the City satisfactory “as a Place to Raise & Educate Children” within 5 years.
- 3.** Increase in use of public-school and community facilities.

## Goal 3

*Create within the education system robust workforce development initiatives aligned with the needs of the business community.*

### Objectives

- 3.1** Develop an avenue for schools to communicate on at least a quarterly basis with the business community on programs and activities.
- 3.2** Provide workforce development opportunities through local employers to enhance educational attainment and provide upskilling opportunities for City residents through educational attainment at secondary and post-secondary levels.
- 3.3** Establish an information clearinghouse on the City website to direct interested community members to workforce grants, internships, dual enrollment and other best practices that encourage workforce development activities.

### Success Measures

- 1.** Unemployment in the City will be at or below national and state averages.
- 2.** A majority of the City's employers surveyed annually will be satisfied with their ability to find talent within the City's workforce.
- 3.** All students residing within the City will have equal access to workforce grants, internships, dual enrollment and other opportunities for educational attainment.

