

EDUCATION QUALITY AND EQUALITY

“securing economic self reliance, social equality and civil rights...”

The Urban League advocates for educational quality and equality for African Americans and others while providing programs that ensure early skills achievement, equal access to secondary educational opportunities and parental involvement.

- Early intervention, through preschool and early childhood education programs, gives a child 25% better chance of achieving at equal levels to other students than if entering kindergarten without previous schooling.
- Currently, an average achievement gap of 63.7 points in Communication Arts and 86.7 points in Mathematics exists between African American and white students in the St. Louis region.
- Nearly 20% of African American students drop out before grade 11.
- Postsecondary education is becoming increasingly difficult for minority students to obtain, particularly due to financial constraints and recent changes in Affirmative Action practices at many colleges and universities.

Early Education for Achievement — The Urban League is in its seventh year of providing direct Head Start services to children and families. In 2007, the League operated four fully-licensed, state-of-the-art facilities serving 726 children and their families.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) — To assist at-risk youth in achieving to their greatest potential, the Urban League partners with the GEAR UP program to help a cohort of 1,100 middle school students from targeted districts become “college ready.”

GED Classes — The Urban League helps students who have dropped out of school to reenter or to achieve their GED through GED courses offered at the Urban League. In 2007, the Urban League helped 238 individuals achieve this goal.

College (Postsecondary) Entry and Completion — Each year, students from a broad spectrum of interests are awarded scholarships from the Urban League. In 2007, 60 students were provided scholarships through the B. T. Hurt Scholarship and Leslie Scholarship programs.

Vaughn Cultural Center — Urban League celebrates and promotes awareness of African American history and culture through exhibits, story telling and special programs at the Urban League. The Vaughn Cultural Center hosted 46 cultural events during 2007.

4,353 Direct Clients served in 2007 through the Urban League’s Education Quality and Equality Programs.