



RESEARCH ON HOUSING & EDUCATION

Stable and affordable housing in safe neighborhoods is necessary for students to achieve their full potential.

Stable and Affordable Housing Supports Education

- **Housing stability promotes children’s social and psychological development, which influences their performance in school.**
- When students have stable housing, they stay in the same school longer, promoting continuity of curriculum. This stability improves student performance and maintains the performance of the classroom as a whole.
- Children growing up in overcrowded housing have lower math and reading scores, complete fewer years of education, and are less likely to graduate from high school than their peers.
- **Parents need to have access to affordable housing in order to be able to support their child’s education effectively.**
- Families that are not housing cost burdened are more likely than other similar families to spend part of their income on child enrichment activities.
- Affordable and stable housing is linked with good health outcomes that influence school attendance and academic performance.

Housing Location and Quality of Education are Inherently Related

- Children living in high-poverty neighborhoods attend lower-quality schools than their middle-class counterparts.
- School quality and performance are important for student outcomes and success. Students moving from low to high performing schools are less likely to be arrested, more likely to graduate high school and more likely to attend a four-year college.
- The quality of the public school system is a leading factor in area home values. Families are increasingly making housing decisions based on school quality, and higher income families are spending their extra resources as such.

Education Shapes the Workforce and Supports the Economy

- Because schools and neighborhoods are connected, equitable and affordable housing opportunities throughout a jurisdiction can provide more equitable educational opportunities.
- More equitable educational opportunities can mean greater and more sustainable economic growth overall.
- Educational attainment increases human capital, enhances productivity of the workforce and boosts economic growth.
- Each additional year of schooling within a population is associated with greater long-run economic growth rates.

Research summaries compiled by Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech in consultation with Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, LLC for the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development. Research references and citations available upon request at rha@fairfaxcounty.gov.