



Seattle Housing Authority Spotlight on **Youth and Education**



➤ Support from cradle to college

Of the nearly 38,000 people the Seattle Housing Authority serves each year, more than 12,000 are under the age of 18. At SHA, we are passionate about these young people growing into independent, successful adults.

Early learning

SHA encourages participation in preschool and afterschool enrichment programs where students can develop socially and emotionally.

- **Partnerships** with early learning centers, preschool and Head Start programs enable children to achieve pre-academic skills and prepare for school

Education partnerships

SHA has long-standing partnerships with Seattle Public Schools and other organizations to help form strong connections between families, schools and other systems to support the success of students.

- 1 in 10 students in Seattle Public Schools lives in SHA-supported housing
- **One-on-one support** coordinated between SHA, SPS and Seattle University promotes whole family engagement in children's education, academic achievement and tutoring
- Attendance Challenges, Back-to-School celebrations and other activities raise attendance and success in school
- The **Global Reading Challenge**, publication of parent-created **Somali alphabet and counting books** and partnerships with The Seattle Public Library, East African Community Services and other organizations foster an early love of reading in young students

“We didn't know what was possible. Now we know what we are doing, we know the path we are on.”

Faisal, founding member of the **SHA Youth Leadership Board**

Inspiring youth to reach their potential

SHA's Youth Engagement Specialists create a unique bond among SHA youth and give them greater opportunities to seek a bright future.

- Social, learning and leadership opportunities encourage teens to **dream big and set goals** for themselves
- Through special activities, girls and boys are finding empowerment to become confident young women and men with strong leadership skills, **media production** is helping youth discover their expressive voices and many other programs support young people **pursuing their aspirations**
- Youth employment and resource fairs connect teen jobseekers with part-time student employment opportunities, internships offer real-world experience, and mentorship by local business owners provide youth with **entrepreneurial opportunities** and early career exploration

Steering students to higher education

SHA's Youth Education Engagement Specialists and College Navigators provide individual attention and academic support to middle and high school students to increase college awareness and readiness.

- Workshops and educational events guide students through the process of applying for **scholarships** and financial aid to make college achievable
- College fairs and tours, free tutoring, registration support for SAT and ACT testing, application assistance for honors programs and colleges, enrollment in Running Start and other educational activities help young residents prepare for college and transition into higher education

Giving homeless students the stability to succeed

SHA's **Home from School** program breaks a cycle of temporary shelters, instability and low attendance for homeless families with students at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School by providing long-term housing near the school.

- With a steady school routine and place to study, a more productive learning environment is created for all students at the school

