

E² Promise is inspired by Southwire Company's 12 for Life™ and the Great Promise Partnership programs in Georgia, which

show high school students they have a place in our economic future. The program allows teens 16 and older to spend part of the day at school and part of the day at the job site. There, they benefit from on-the-job training at real entry-level jobs, mentoring, life and career skill sessions and service learning projects. Students may also earn pay raises based on job and academic performance, attendance and behavior.



2015-2016 Results

100% of Seniors Graduated

83% Pursuing Post-Secondary Education or Military

0% Dropout Rate

All underclassmen remain in school, moving closer to graduation.



E² Promise brings together private sector partners, schools, local government, community partners, students and innovative programming to help at-risk students graduate and become productive members of their communities.

We are actively looking for partners who would like to be a part of creating a better future for Aiken County's children and communities. To learn more on how you or your organization can get involved, contact United Way of Aiken County, (803)648-8331.

Proud Supporters of
E² Promise



E² Promise



Aiken County's Education and Employment Initiative



The Problem.

In South Carolina, about one in five high school students will not graduate from high school – often due to factors outside of their control, such as poverty or inadequate housing. According to US Census Bureau data, 15% of all South Carolinians over the age of 25 don't have high school diplomas and are not fully prepared for the workplace. In Aiken County alone, there are almost 20,000 adults without a high school diploma. By bringing together public and private partnerships, mentors, and positive workplaces, we can change this by giving at-risk students a reason to stay in school and succeed.

The Solution.



The Aiken County Public School District and the United Way of Aiken County launched an innovative approach that has achieved significant success in increasing the high school graduation rate and in preparing students for the next post-secondary step. This approach has demonstrated proven

results when implemented in communities much like Aiken by providing unique opportunities for youth that are otherwise at risk of not graduating.

In return for the students' promise to maintain positive academic progress and complete their high school education, they obtain support and are guided in their efforts as they prepare for further education or the workplace after graduation.



How it Works.

In this workplace program, high school students are shown they have a place in a bright economic future. *The program allows teens age 16 and older to spend part of the day at school and part of the day at a meaningful job site.* There, they benefit from on-the-job training at real entry-level paid jobs, mentoring, life and career skill sessions, and service assignments.

The school district identifies students at-risk of dropping out who need help staying on track. School officials screen student applicants for at-risk status using indicators such as unstable families, inadequate housing, poverty issues, and others including:

- Students without consistent behavioral problems
- Students with high potential
- Students at least 16 years old and eligible to work

The Benefits.

Participating employers benefit from trained and motivated employees who are eager to make a positive impact on the company and their community. Employers also assign mentors who are trained to help with job and school work, advocate for the students, as well as guide them through issues such as problem resolution, budgeting, social skills and goal setting.



**United Way of
Aiken County, Inc.**

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