



# Ready for School

IMPACT REPORT | 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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**RAYMOND JAMES**



At Raymond James, we understand that potential is not just something to be recognized, it’s something to be cultivated.

As a financial services firm, our work centers on helping people optimize their opportunities and achieve their goals. That same philosophy drives our commitment to education through Ready for School, our signature giving program.

Ready for School is about creating the conditions where every child can thrive. It’s about encouraging curiosity, feeding ambition and removing barriers so students can push the limits of their possibilities. We believe that when students are supported holistically – inside the classroom, outside the classroom and beyond – they are better equipped to reach academic milestones and unlock lifelong success.

In fiscal year 2025, Raymond James associates volunteered nearly **1,000 hours** with our **11 Ready for School partner organizations**, serving around **18,000 students** and providing **56,000 meals**.

As a board member of Academy Prep Center of Tampa since 2022, I’ve seen firsthand how access to rigorous education and enrichment programs can truly change the trajectory of

a young person’s life. Programs like Academy Prep and our Ready for School partners stay with students, helping identify best-fit high schools and even colleges to help promote long-term success. I’ve had the privilege of watching graduates flourish – not only in school but in their careers, including several who now work at Raymond James.

And the impact doesn’t end with the individual. A well-educated community is a resilient community – more economically stable, civically engaged and socially connected. Education strengthens the workforce, reduces inequality and fuels innovation. It’s a long-term investment with exponential returns, and it’s one we’re proud to make.

Ready for School is more than a program, it’s a promise that we’ve made for the next three years. A promise to invest our time, resources and expertise into helping students succeed. A promise to align our philanthropic mission with our corporate values. And a promise to help build a future where every child has the opportunity to realize their full potential.



**PAUL SHOUKRY**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Raymond James Financial

**INSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

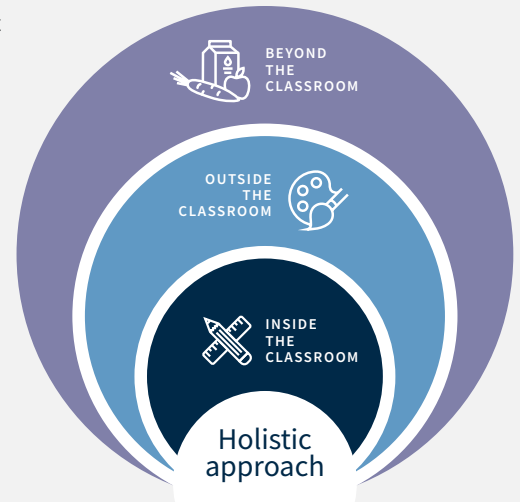
# Building strong academic foundations

We believe every student deserves access to high-quality learning experiences that spark curiosity and build confidence. Ready for School supports innovative classroom environments and invests in the educators and programs that make them possible.

Our focus is on the academic milestones that research shows are most predictive of long-term success:

**Reading by third grade.** By third grade, students are expected to read to learn and those who aren't proficient are four times more likely to fall behind or drop out.

**Algebra by ninth grade.** Students who master algebra by ninth grade are twice as likely to graduate from high school and more likely to pursue higher education and well-paying careers.



**READY FOR SCHOOL SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:**



Inspires and empowers people with neurodiversity to learn, thrive and succeed.

**7.9%**

Increase in reading score for K-4 students on the NWEA MAP assessments year over year

**5.2%**

Increase in math scores for seventh and ninth grade students on the NWEA MAP assessments year over year



Prepares students for life after high school, whether attending college or technical training, or joining the workforce.

**73%**

Students scoring proficient on FAST Algebra End of Course Exam, **a 4.3% increase year over year.**



Helps to re-engineer high school education with the goal of making it more relevant, experiential and authentically connected to the complexities of the real world.

**3,400**

Students enrolled in the 3DE program designed to systemically reengineer public high school education to provide economic opportunity for all students by making learning relevant, rigorous and authentically connected to workforce experiences

**Raymond James' contribution supported the expansion to two new schools,** Largo and Seminole during the 2024-2025 school year. This addition totals **13 schools** across four districts and makes Pinellas County the first school district in the US to achieve systemic change.



INSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Transforms the lives of at-risk, struggling readers, helping them progress from a lifetime of illiteracy to reading proficiency using the proven teaching power of singing.

**623**

Students served through the Family Literacy Project (FLiP), a tablet-based program that helps kids improve their reading one full grade level in three months' time

**87%**

FLiP completion rate

 **Teach For America**

Finds, develops and supports extraordinary leaders to transform education and expand opportunity for all children.

**35**

Corps members (teachers) recruited, selected and placed

**6,500**

Students impacted by inaugural Tampa Bay Corps



OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



# Extending learning beyond the bell

Students spend the majority of their time outside of school. That time can either widen achievement gaps or help close them. Ready for School supports high-quality out-of-school time (OST) programs that keep students engaged, supported and inspired, which include:

**Mentorship:** One-on-one guidance and career shadowing opportunities that help students connect learning with real-world goals

**Before- and after-school programs:** Evidence-based programs that reinforce academic skills and foster social-emotional development

**Summer and supplemental learning:** Opportunities that prevent learning loss and keep students on track year-round

Research shows that regular participation in OST programs improves attendance, behavior and academic performance – especially for students from underserved communities.

## READY FOR SCHOOL SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



Supports Sulphur Springs Pk-8th grade to create a culture that promotes a caring, nurturing and safe community, providing resources to help educate children and revive their community.

**126 Students registered for summer camp.**

Each camper also receives a Summer Bridge book to support efforts in minimizing summer learning loss.

**88%** of students demonstrated academic growth in literacy over the course of the year on the myON Reading Platform.

**With Raymond James' contribution,** the Y relaunched a Parent Teacher Association, made it possible for students to receive a holiday gift, provided dinner for families at Parent Teacher Night, celebrated student success with milestone banquets, provided lunch during the high stress testing season and purchased laptops.



Provides enriching experiences for students, especially those most in need, to stay on track to graduate, plan for the future, build strong character and live healthy lifestyles.

**5,978** kids served through the Project Learn initiative

**90% of club members** attended at least **70%** of the program days offered

**95% of students met or exceeded 1 grade level of growth.**

Those participating showed more than double the rate of advanced proficiency gains compared to the overall student population.



Creates generational change by empowering youth through relationships with professional mentors.

**93%**

of youth made progress toward School Success (attending school, completing homework, staying focused in class)

**95%**

of youth made progress toward Plans and Skills for the Future (achieving goals, planning for special activities, completing assignments)

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



# Meeting basic needs to turn potential into progress

Students can't focus on learning if they're hungry, uncomfortable or struggling emotionally. We invest in:

**Nutrition:** School-based and community food programs that help ensure students are nourished and ready to learn

**Housing:** Providing safe, supportive and stable environments for students to live

**Necessities:** Supporting the well-being of students by providing the basic resources they need to thrive

Research shows when students' foundational needs are met, they attend school more consistently, engage more fully and perform better academically.

READY FOR SCHOOL SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

## HERO TO A CHILD

Empowers, uplifts and supports children and young adults impacted by abuse and neglect.

**1**  
**new closet opened:**

A centrally located resource accessible to caregivers, foster parents, case managers and guardians ad litem

**207**  
**children served**

through the Raymond James funded new resource closet that officially opened 2/25/2025



Changes lives with compassion and respect by providing health care, nutritious food, housing and education for neighbors in need.

Raymond James' support helped provide over **\$1.5 million in groceries** to St. Pete Free Clinic clients during the 2024-2025 school year. Thanks to the Clinic's ability to stretch the impact, they were able to multiply the donation made by Raymond James more than 4x.



Addresses the root causes of poverty for unaccompanied homeless youth – youth unhoused, not living with a parent/guardian and not in foster care.

**Two professionals were hired** with Raymond James' contribution to improve staff retention and efficiencies, establishing protocols in preparation for affiliates, developing relationships with the Department of Children and Families to expedite the ability for students to receive public health benefits and medication management

**25 unhoused youth (ages 15-19) were living at Starting Right, Now** during the funding period and an additional 50 alumni received continued care management.

# RAYMOND JAMES

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