

Sydney Vanderford entered ACHIEVE in August 2018 with few expectations except she wanted to obtain her GED. Her basic skills in reading demonstrated efficiency, but her math was just below basic skills deficient. She knew she wanted to go to college, but was not sure exactly what she wanted as a career.

Sydney studied and continued to progress on her GED Ready scores. For a period of time, she had to move out of the county to take care of some family business. During this time, ACHIEVE staff maintained contact and provided her with online GED study. By the spring of 2019, Sydney had returned to Spartanburg and did further assessments at ACHIEVE. She was ready to start her GED exams.

During this time, Sydney disclosed that she was pregnant. This delayed her goals some, but by September 2019, she had attained basic skills efficiency in math and took the GED exam and obtained her GED diploma.

Sydney, now married as Ms. Sydney Byers, had a girl named Emma Grace in October 2019. Sydney had reached her goal of getting her GED, but knew she still needed a job. She planned to get her realtor's license and enrolled Emma Grace in the Westminster Presbyterian Church daycare. In January 2020, she began working as a part-time teacher in the daycare and has now been hired full time.

Sydney plans to continue working at the daycare and has enrolled at Spartanburg Community College to take early childhood classes and hopes to transfer to USC Upstate.