



# WV GEAR UP Program Evaluation

## Overview of Selected Findings from Year 1 Interim Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**

**September 3, 2015**

# Format

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- **Introduction**
- **Overview of Select Findings**
  - Response Rates
  - Demographics
  - Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence
  - College Preparation Activities
  - College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid
  - Additional Support
- **Implications for Year 2**
  - Conclusions
  - Recommendations
- **Questions**

# Introduction

- *WV GEAR UP Year 1 Interim Evaluation Report*
- *WV GEAR UP Year 1 School-Level Survey Reports*

# WV GEAR UP Year 1 Interim Evaluation Report

## *Interim Report Overview*

- **Purpose:** *To describe baseline survey results gathered during Year 1 of the WV GEAR UP program*
- **Content/Structure:** *Contains introduction, results, conclusions, and recommendations*

Report is available on [wvgearup.org](http://wvgearup.org)

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5gGKzo722HAfkk4QlpJWDdYMnpUZlQ0S2N3bmRuMmdMVWEwVl8tZXJITkhnbEVlb0xRbjQ&usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5gGKzo722HAfkk4QlpJWDdYMnpUZlQ0S2N3bmRuMmdMVWEwVl8tZXJITkhnbEVlb0xRbjQ&usp=drive_web)



## West Virginia GEAR UP Year 1 Interim Evaluation Report

May 2015

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# WV GEAR UP Year 1 School-Level Survey Reports

## School-Level Survey Report Overview

- **Purpose:** *We have included school-level reports to be provided to site and county coordinators to...*
  - *Generate understanding of program context and baseline outcomes,*
  - *Assist with monitoring outcomes over time for participating students and their families, and*
  - *Help participating schools and counties plan services and supports to address needs.*
- **Content/Structure:** *Each report contains response rates and summary of findings by grade level and group*

West Virginia GEAR UP State Grant 2014 Year 1 Survey School Summary Report			
School Name/Code: <b>Montcalm High School (051505)</b>			
Survey Type: <b>Parent</b>			
Grade Level: <b>7 and 8</b>			
*****			
<b>School Level Response Rates:</b>			
Surveys Administered:			
7 <sup>th</sup> grade - 54			
8 <sup>th</sup> grade - 61			
Surveys Received for:			
7 <sup>th</sup> grade - 41			
8 <sup>th</sup> grade - 39			
School Response Rate:			
7 <sup>th</sup> grade - 75.9%			
8 <sup>th</sup> grade - 63.9%			
<b>Results (Percentages) by Survey Question</b>			
<b>1. What is your relationship to the child who brought this survey home?</b>			
		<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
	No Response	7.3%	0.0%
	Parent or Guardian	87.8%	92.3%
	Step or foster parent	0.0%	0.0%
	Grandparent	4.9%	7.7%
	Other	0.0%	0.0%
<b>2. What is your race?</b>			
		<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade %</b>
	No response	0.0%	0.0%
	White	97.6%	97.4%
	Black or African American	2.4%	0.0%
	Asian	0.0%	0.0%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
	Two or more races	0.0%	2.6%
<b>3. What is your ethnicity?</b>			
		<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
	No Response	9.8%	12.8%
	Hispanic or Latino	4.9%	2.6%
	Not Hispanic or Latino	85.3%	84.6%
<b>4. What is the main language you speak at home?</b>			
		<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
	No Response	0.0%	0.0%
	English	97.6%	100.0%
	Spanish	2.4%	0.0%

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# Overview of Select Findings

- *Response Rates*
- *Demographics*
- *Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence*
- *College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid*
- *College Preparation Activities*
- *Additional Support*

## Response Rates

### *Survey response rates by grade level and group*

**TABLE 1: YEAR 1 SURVEY RESPONSE RATES BY GROUP**

Group	Surveys Returned	Response Rate Denominator	Response Rate
<b><i>Student Surveys</i></b>			
Grade 7 (Cohort)	2525	2892	87.3%
Grade 8 (Comparison)	2486	2866	86.7%
Grade 12 (Priority)	1309	1866	70.1%
<b><i>Parent/Guardian Surveys</i></b>			
Grade 7 (Cohort)	1383	2892	47.8%
Grade 8 (Comparison)	1162	2866	40.5%

Source: Year 1 WV GEAR UP Student and Parent/Guardian Surveys

Final *Student* Response Rate for APR:

$3,834/4,758 = \sim 81.0\%$

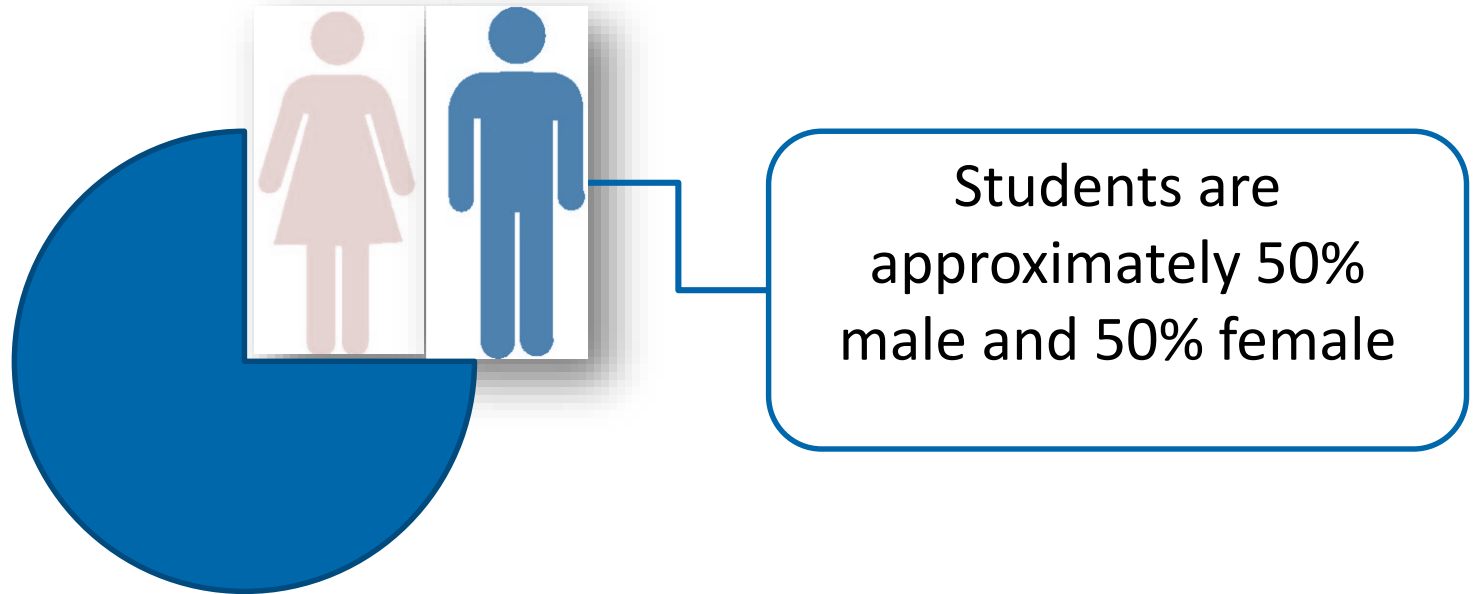
Final *Parent* Response Rate for APR:

$1,383/2,892 = \sim 47.8\%$

## Demographics

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### *Student Gender*



### *Race/Ethnicity*

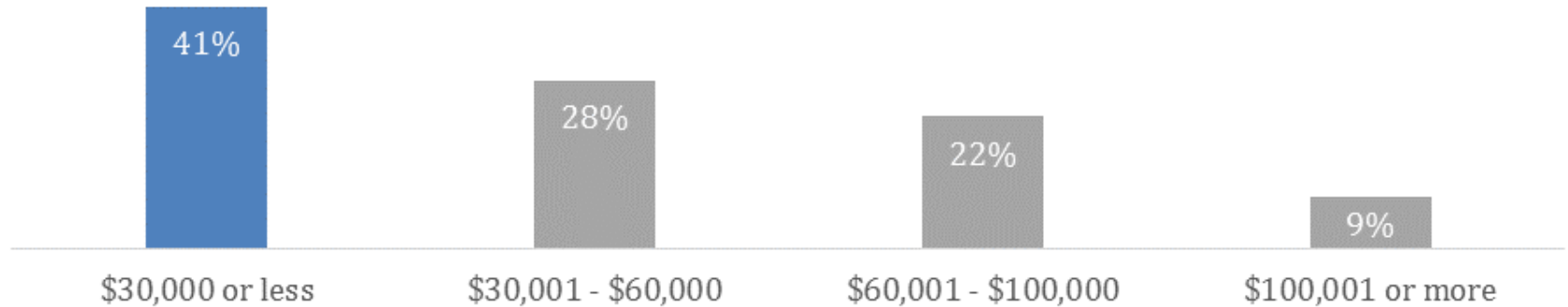
- Students and parents are predominantly **White**, **non-Hispanic**, and speak **English** as their primary language



## Demographics

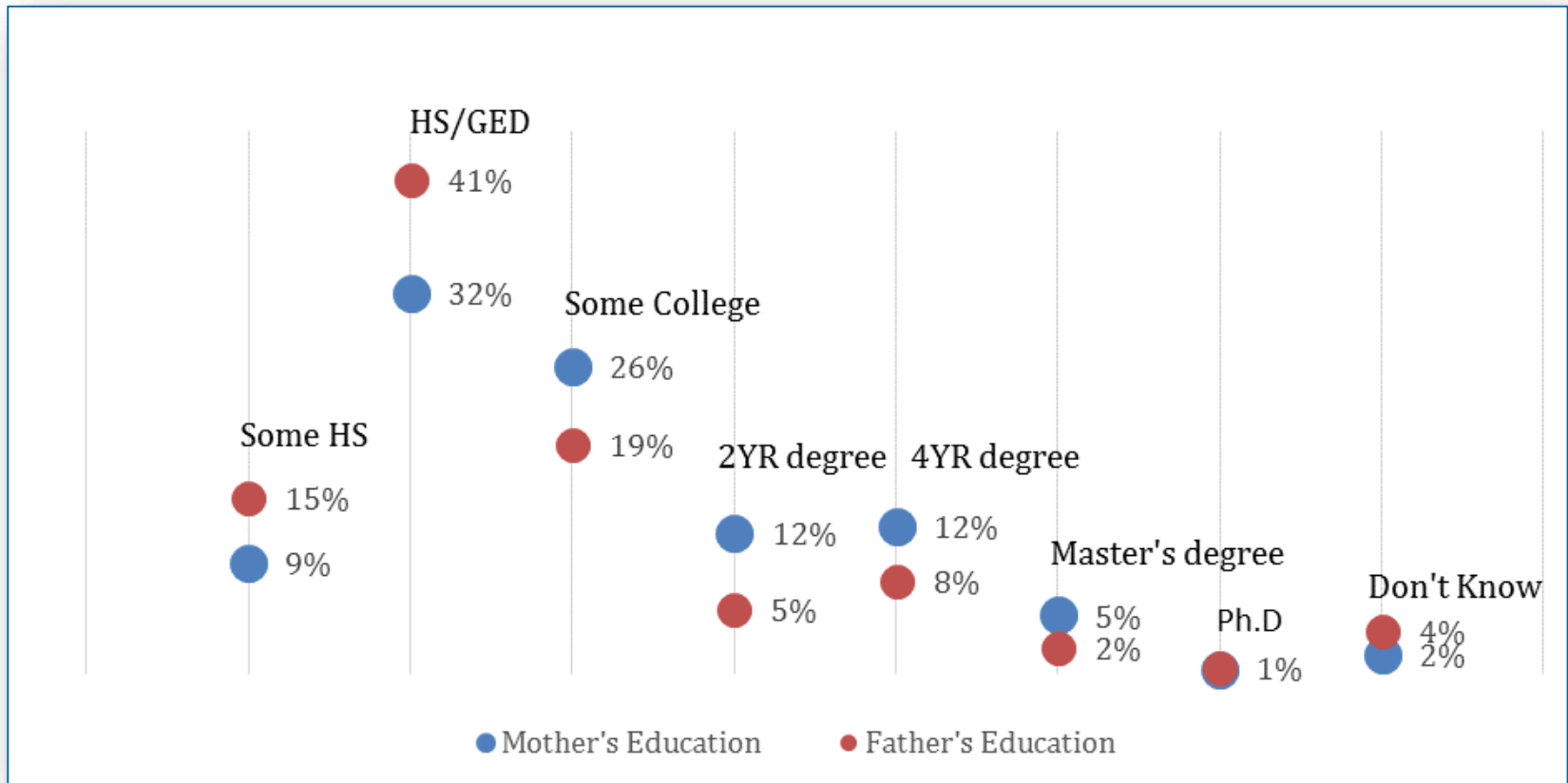
### *Estimated family income as reported by parents/guardians of Grade 7 students*

Of those parents/guardians who answered the question, more than **40% estimated their family income to be less than \$30,000 per year.**



## Demographics

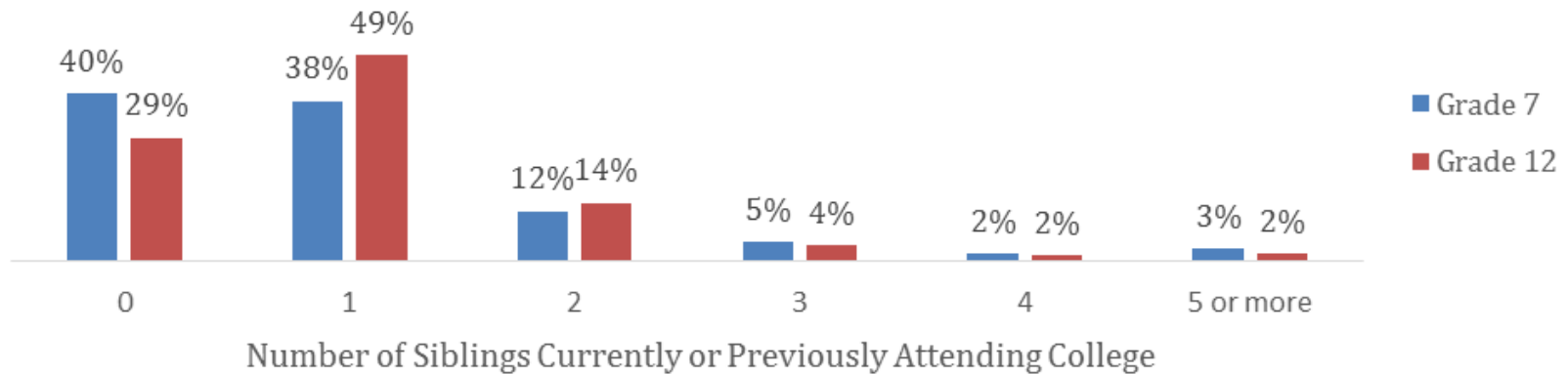
*Difference in male and female guardian education levels as reported by parents/guardians of Grade 7 students*



## Demographics

*Of students with siblings, the number of those siblings who attend or previously attended college*

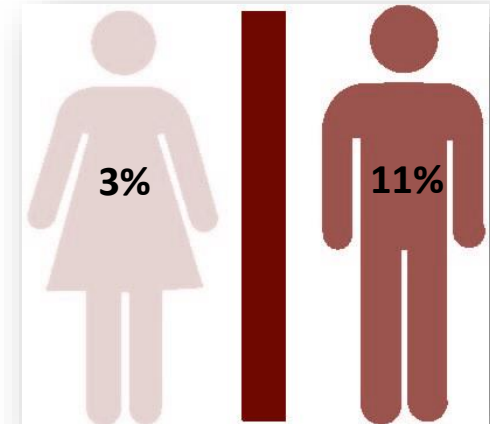
Between 60% and 70% of students with siblings reported one or more have attended or currently attend college. **Between 29% and 40% are estimated to have siblings who have never attended college.**



## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

*Nearly all students plan to continue their education after high school, but...*

**Male students** were significantly **more likely** than females to report they **do not** plan to continue.



**AND...**

Students who reported their parents/guardians **did not** have a college degree (Associate's or higher), were significantly **less likely** to have plans to attend college when compared to students whose parents/guardians had a college degree.



## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

*Of those students who do not plan to continue their education after high school...*

More than a quarter (28%) report they plan to **enlist in the military**. More state that they **need/want to work** (31%/49%).

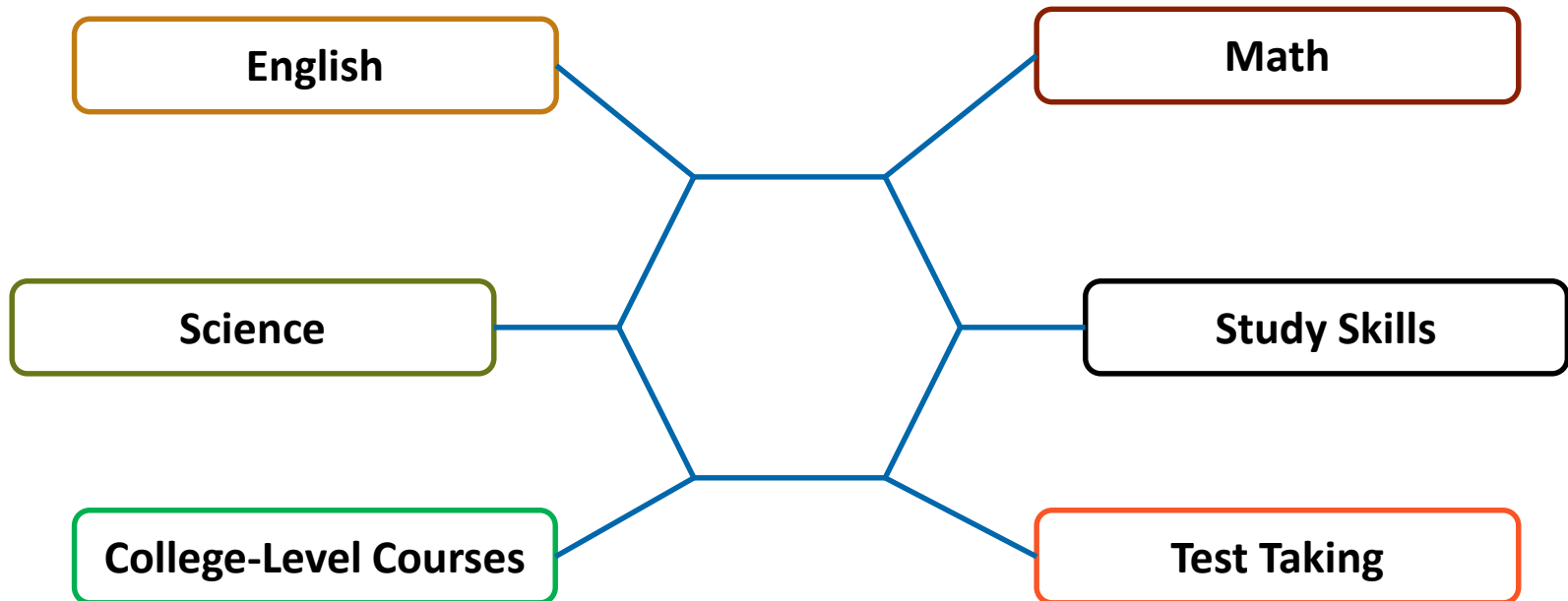
AND...

About 25% perceive **cost to be a significant barrier** to continuing their education.



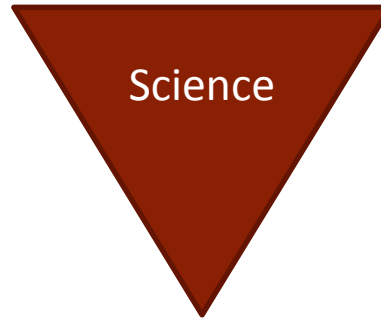
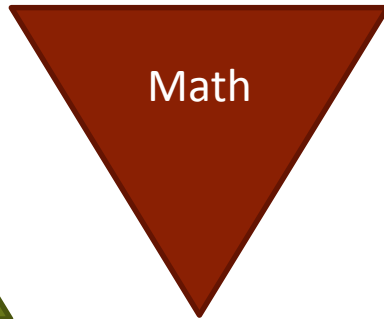
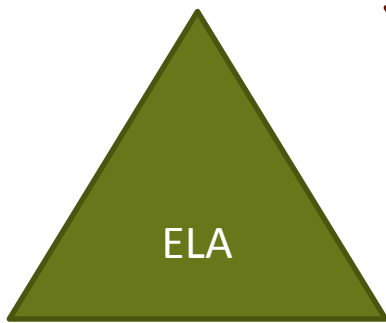
## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

Overall, students report *high levels of academic confidence* in six major areas assessed...



## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

*Regardless of grade level, students were most confident in their **ELA skills** and least confident in their **math, science, and study skills**.*



Grade 12 students were **more reserved** about their academic confidence than Grade 7 students in all areas. The largest differences were in perceptions of their ability to do well in college-level courses in the future and mathematics.

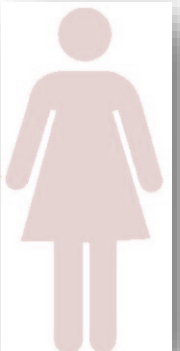
## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

*Significant gender differences emerged in students' levels of academic confidence.*



- Males were **more likely** than females to be “very confident” about their **math skills** (34% vs. 24%).
- Males were also **more likely** to be “very confident” about their **science skills** (30% vs. 23%) and their ability to do well on **end-of-year tests** (39% vs. 33%).

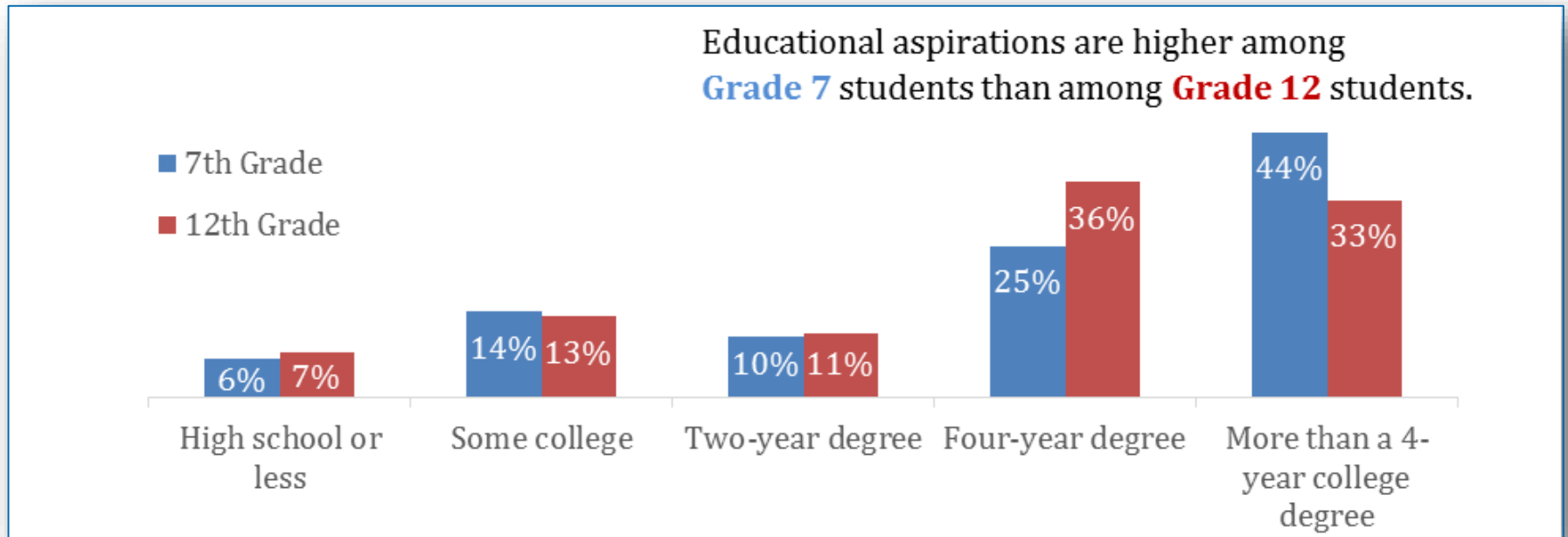
- Females were **more likely** than males to be “very confident” in their **English/language arts skills** (38% vs. 29.7%)





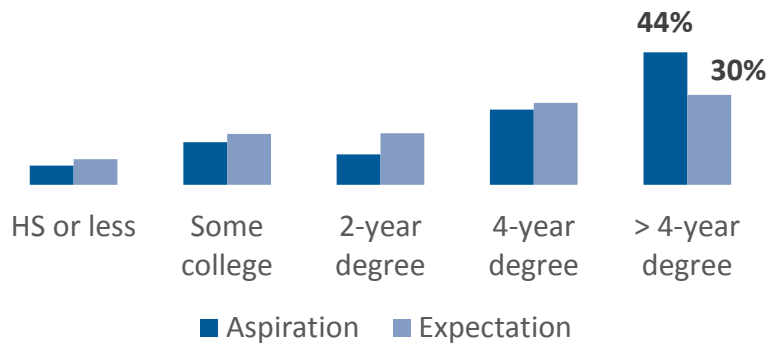
## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

### *Self-Reported Educational Aspirations of Students by Grade*



## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

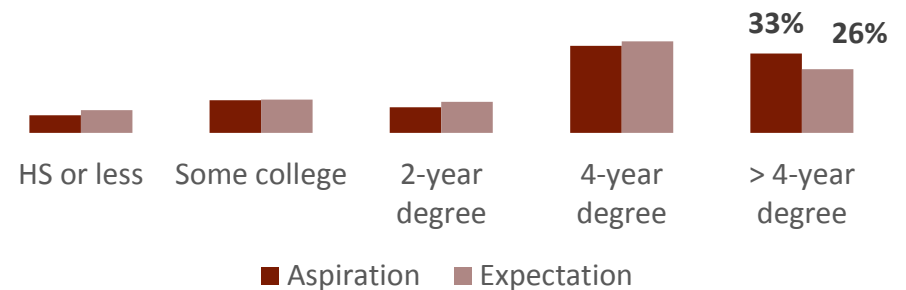
**Educational Aspirations vs. Expectations  
for Grade 7 Students**



Grade 7 Students expect to achieve a lower level of education than the level to which they aspire.

This is also true for Grade 12 students, though the discrepancy is not as great.

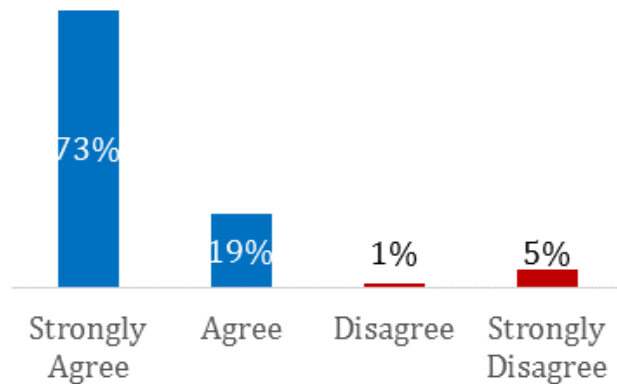
**Educational Aspirations vs. Expectations for  
Grade 12 Students**



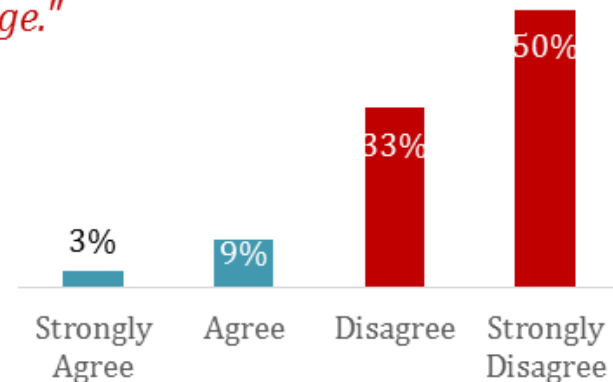
## Educational Goals, Aspirations, and Academic Confidence

### *Views about college as expressed by parents/guardians of Grade 7 students*

92% of respondents agree that  
*"Attending college is important to  
my child's career goals and future."*



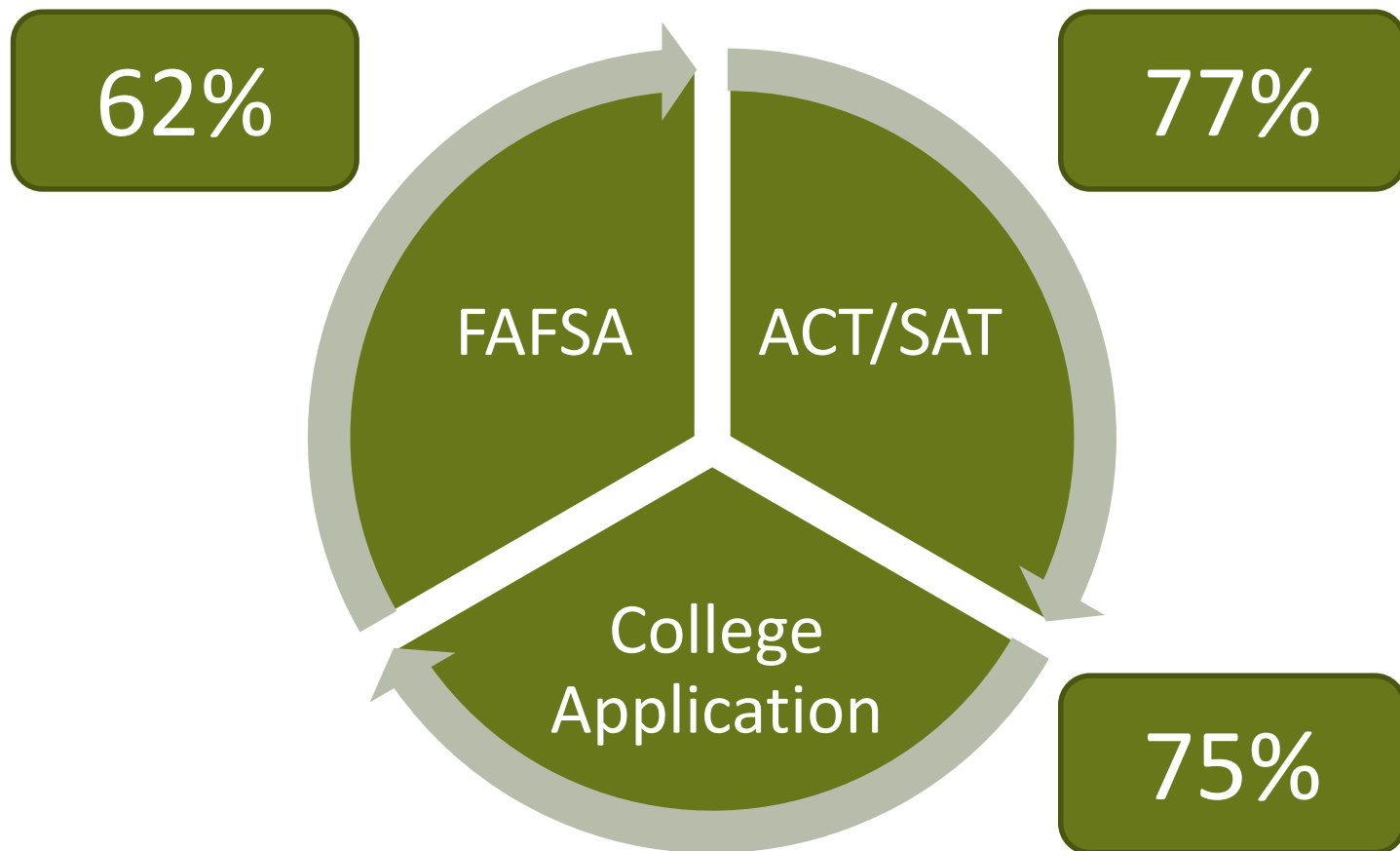
83% of respondents disagree  
with the statement, *"It's too early  
to think about my child going to  
college."*



Students whose parents/guardians agreed with the statement: "It is too early to think about my child going to college" reported **lower educational aspirations and expectations** than students whose parents disagreed.

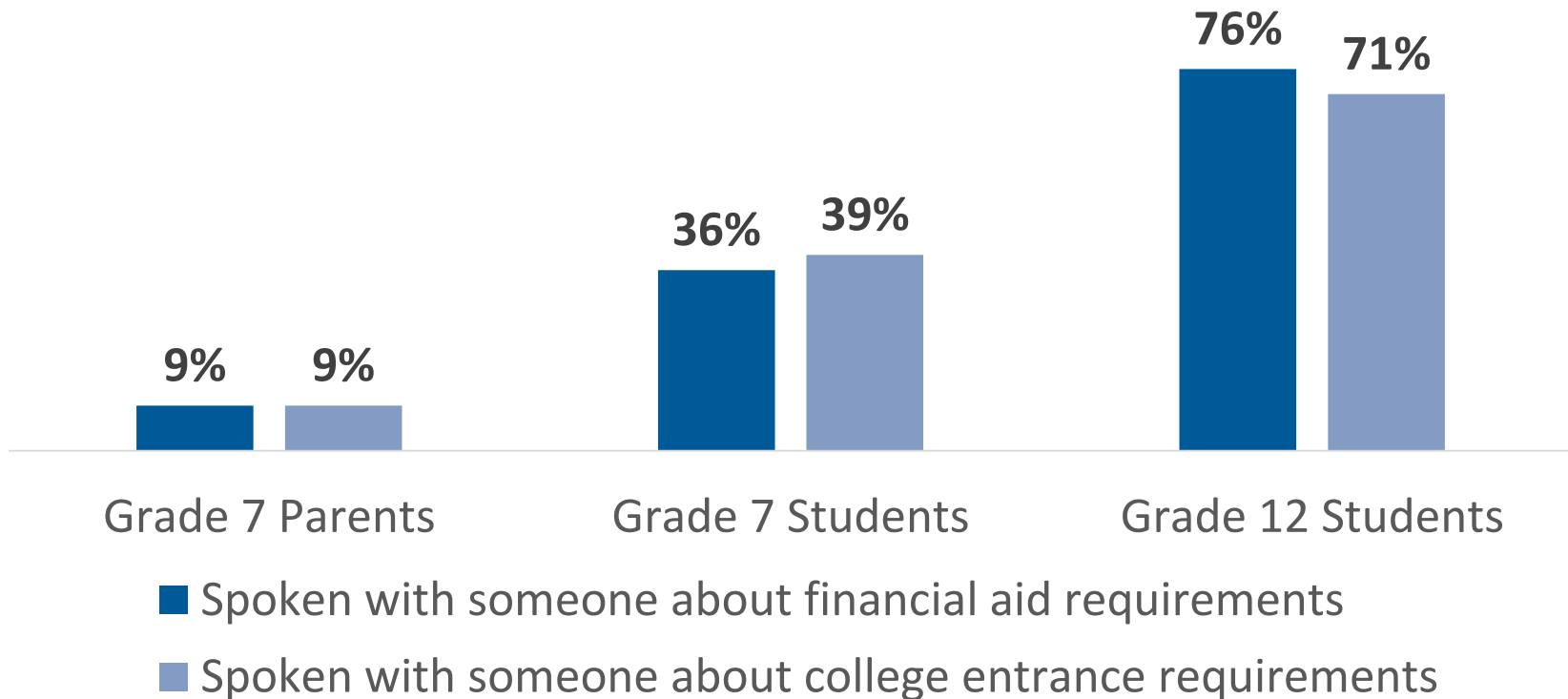
## College Preparation Activities

*Grade 12 students' completion of college preparation activities as measured in December 2014...*



## College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid

*Percentage of students and parents who have spoken to someone about financial aid and college entrance requirements*



## College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid

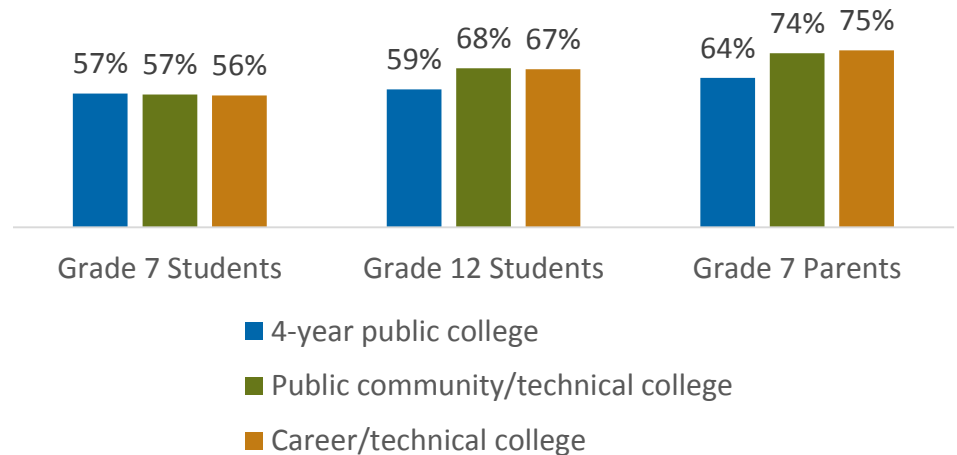
### *Nevertheless...*

Approximately **60%** of parents of Grade 7 students reported being knowledgeable about financial aid and the costs/benefits of going to college.

### AND...

The majority of respondents estimated they could probably or definitely afford three postsecondary options.

Percentage of Respondents Indicating they “probably” or “definitely” could afford to attend postsecondary education options



## College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid

*However... relatively few students or parents are able to correctly estimate the cost of tuition.*

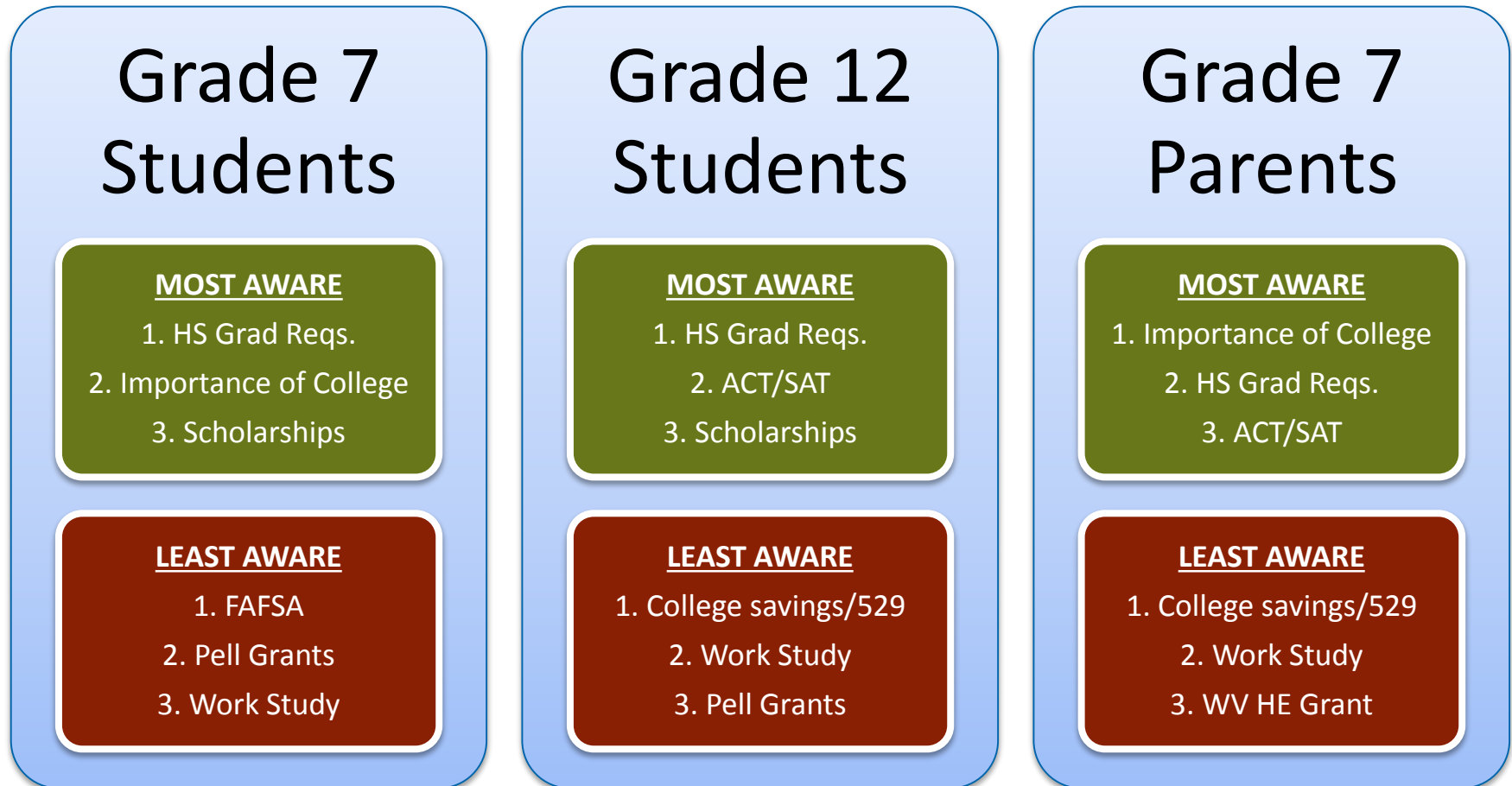
**TABLE 8: TUITION ESTIMATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE AND GRADE**

	Four-Year Public College			Public Comm/Tech College		
	Grade 7	Grade 12	Grade 7 Parents	Grade 7	Grade 12	Grade 7 Parents
Up to \$4,000	310 12.6%	53 4.1%	46 3.6%	418 17.0%	275 21.6%	279 22.4
\$4,001-\$8000	470 19.1%	308 24.1%	261 20.2%	514 21.0%	362 28.4%	373 30.0%
\$8,001-\$11,000	499 20.2%	288 22.5%	271 21.0%	486 19.8%	274 21.5%	240 19.3%
\$11,001-\$16,000	379 15.4%	212 16.6%	224 17.4%	418 17.0%	183 14.4%	137 11.0%
\$16,001-\$21,000	335 13.6%	246 19.2%	178 13.8%	281 11.5%	94 7.4%	99 8.0%
\$21,001-\$26,000	219 8.9%	89 7.0%	114 8.8%	156 6.4%	41 3.2%	45 3.6%
More than \$26,000	255 10.3%	84 6.6%	197 15.3%	180 7.3%	45 3.5%	70 5.6%

Source: Year 1 WV GEAR UP Student and Parent/Guardian Surveys

## College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid

*Students' and parents' self-reported awareness of postsecondary education topics...*





## College Entrance Requirements, Cost, and Financial Aid

*Most important sources in helping students and parents to gather information about postsecondary options...*

### Grade 7 Students

Family Members

Television

College/University Websites

### Grade 12 Students

College/University Websites

Family Members

School Counselors

### Grade 7 Parents

Family Members

College/University Websites

Brochures/Pamphlets

School Counselors

## Additional Support

*Additional supports requested by students and parents...*

### Grade 7 Students

College Visits

College Entrance  
Reqs.

Career Exploration

### Grade 12 Students

College Visits

Financial  
Aid/Scholarships

Completing  
Financial Aid Forms

### Grade 7 Parents

Financial  
Aid/Scholarships

College Entrance  
Reqs.

Information about  
GEAR UP Events

# Implications for Year 2

## Conclusions

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- **GEAR UP is serving the target population.**
- **Students have high aspirations, but they are more reserved about their actual expectations.**
- **Students are confident in their academic ability, but need more help to feel confident in math, science, and study skills.**
- **Parental views are an important lever to influence student aspirations/expectations.**

## Conclusions

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- **Perceptions of cost are a potential barrier to students' plans to continue education, but there is little knowledge about the actual cost of college in WV.**
- **Building knowledge about financial aid options among students and families can potentially improve perceptions of affordability.**
- **Students are looking elsewhere for information about postsecondary options, but parents are not finding many sources to be useful.**
- **GEAR UP will serve as a much needed additional resource for parents and students.**

## Recommendations

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- **Capitalize on positive aspirations and expectations.**
- **Work closely with families.**
- **Focus on math, science, and study skills when planning academic support.**
- **Continue to increase knowledge about the costs and financial aid options associated with college.**
- **Continue to work with college partners to provide opportunities to visit colleges and build knowledge of college entrance requirements.**
- **Capitalize on excitement about GEAR UP by publicizing events and sustaining outreach to families.**

# Questions?

## Additional Information

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**Thank you so much!**

**For any questions, please to contact the lead researcher for this study:**

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