



Preparing students for success!



What is GEAR UP?



West Virginia GEAR UP (WVGU) is a program funded by the US Department of Education and stands for **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms. More than 40 states across the United States have GEAR UP programs. In September 2021, WVGU received a \$24.5 million dollar grant to serve more than 17,000 middle and high school students across Boone, Clay, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Nicholas, Roane, Wayne, Webster and Wirt counties through 2028.

Who can participate?

Students in the **2027 and 2028** classes in partnering West Virginia GEAR UP schools can participate from their seventh grade year through their first year of postsecondary education.

For a list of participating schools, visit [WVGearUp.org](https://www.wvgearup.org).



WVGU students learn about the importance of postsecondary education and receive academic enrichment opportunities such as tutoring, STEM activities, and academic boot camps.



It is never too early to start those conversations about paying for college. Students and families will receive assistance and resources about financial aid and financial literacy.

VISIT [WVGearUp.org](https://www.wvgearup.org) FOR MORE INFO

“WV GEAR UP goes above and beyond, and without a doubt the program helped me to succeed and be where I am at today.”

Taylor Raby - WVGU Participant

FREE SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

All services provided by WVGU are **FREE** to students, families, and educators. Services are designed to help students and families plan, apply, and pay for education and training beyond high school. Services start in middle school and go through the first year of college. Examples include:

- Student Leadership Academy
- College Exploration Week
- In-state college campus visits
- Financial literacy programing
- CFWV account creation
- Student Success Society
- Transition to high school family event
- GEAR UP U Summer Academy
- STEM/Pre-Algebra support program
- Academic enrichment including online tutoring and 24/7 access to support

More information about our services can be found at WVGearUp.org

CFWV Account Creation

College for West Virginia (CFWV) provides FREE resources and information to students and families seeking financial planning and aid for postsecondary education and training. This includes resources on FAFSA completion, scholarship and grant opportunities, college and career planning information, and financial planning.

WVGU helps students and their families create an account on CFWV and navigate the site's many resources. WVGU students and families have the opportunity to participate in workshops on financial planning for college specifically geared towards their needs.



For the latest WVGU news and to sign up for our newsletter, visit our website using the QR code.

For Middle Schoolers

The WV GEAR UP program believes college is a necessity. When we use the term "college," we are referring to any training and education beyond high school including earning a trade certificate, two-year degree, or four-year degree. The program provides you with a full range of resources to help navigate the college-going process with your family to help you plan and succeed. It is never too early to start planning for life after high school. We are here to help you succeed!

West Virginia GEAR UP is managed by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission with funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

