Preparing students for success!

West Virginia GEAR UP

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?

Cohort students in the **classes of 2027 and 2028** who are graduating from participating high schools can participate in GEAR UP from their seventh grade year all the way through their first year of postsecondary education. For a list of participating schools, visit **WVGEARUP.org.**

12th grade students graduating from participating high schools between **2023 and 2028** will receive services to help them transition to life after high school and through their first year of postsecondary education and/or training.

WVGU students receive academic enrichment, such as SAT/ACT prep, tutoring, dual credit and credit recovery opportunities, and STEM programming.

Students and families benefit from financial aid and college counseling, FAFSA completion workshops, scholarship information, and much more!

VISIT 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 training beyond high school. Examples include:

- FAFSA completion workshops
- In-state college campus visits
- Family Action Networks (FANs)
- CFWV account creation
- Family events
- GEAR UP U! Summer Academy for students in the cohort group
- 24/7 online tutoring through Brainfuse
- STEM programing
- Dual credit courses for high school students
- Financial aid and scholarship workshops
- College Application and Exploration Week
- CFWV Txt 4 Success for high school seniors
- Transition workshops
- Student mentoring services

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

FAMILY ACTION NETWORKS (FANs)

The new FANs initiative is designed to organize, train, and coordinate family engagement and outreach efforts in all West Virginia GEAR UP school communities. By creating a partnership between student families and the WV GEAR UP staff, it is our goal to provide the necessary tools and resources to help students and families make informed decisions about their future. GEAR UP staff provides webinars and workshops that will empower GEAR UP family members to become influential and organized changemakers toward achieving GEAR UP program goals in their children's schools and throughout their communities on a broader scale.

Parents can learn more about FANs, access past webinars, and register to become a member by following the QR code.

For Families:

The West Virginia 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 families with a full range of resources to help them navigate the college-going process with their students to help them plan and succeed. These services are made available to help ensure the success of your student!

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

WEST VIRGINIA Higher Education Policy Commission