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?

GEAR UP serves middle and high school students graduating from participating schools between 2022 and 2028. **High School seniors** are eligible to participate in the GEAR UP program. For a list of participating schools, visit **WVGEARUP.org**.

Senior students and their families participating in WVGU receive special services helping them succeed in their education after high school. WVGU students will also receive assistance after graduation as they transition into the first year of postsecondary education.

WVGU students receive academic enrichment, such as SAT/ACT prep, tutoring, dual credit and credit recovery, and transition workshops.

Students and families benefit from financial aid and college counseling, FAFSA completion workshops, financial literacy programs 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 and training beyond high school. Seniors may participate in a number of WVGU sponsored activities and services. Examples include:

- TXT 4 Success
- Dual credit courses
- SAT/ACT prep
- Online tutoring
- College Application and Exploration Week
- In-state college campus visits
- FAFSA completion workshops
- State financial aid and scholarship workshops
- Transition and college readiness family events
- College Decision Day

For more information about GEAR UP, visit WVGEARUP.org.

Txt 4 Success

Seniors in high school can sign up to receive college counseling via text messages through the TXT 4 Success Program. The text messages sent serve as general college reminders and advice, such as key deadlines and regular check-ins. The program works with students into their first year of college to ensure they are transitioning well into college life.

Students who opt-in to the service can text at any time to have any of their college questions answered by a real college access advisor. This program is free for all West Virginia GEAR UP students.

Use the QR code to sign up for Txt 4 Success today!

For Seniors

Congratulations! You have almost finished high school, but there is still much to do to ensure you succeed after you graduate. West Virginia GEAR UP 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. West Virginia GEAR UP provides you with a full range of resources to help you and your family navigate the college-going process and set you on a path for success after graduation.

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