

WV GEAR UP WORKPLAN

GRANT YEAR 6: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027



SURVEY, RESEARCH & DATA

Student and Parent Surveys
Surveying 12th Grade Students
Surveying 12th Grade Parents
Fall 2026

Target: 80% Student | 50% Parent

HERO Interviews and Student Focus Groups
March – April 2027
Target: Cohort Students

School Personnel Surveys
Surveying 9th – 12th Grade Educators and Staff
April - May 2027
Target: 60% Response Rate



EVENT REGISTRATION

Required for all workplan activities. Regional PDs must approve all non-recurring events by email.
Event registration should be submitted two weeks in advance.



DATA COLLECTION

Activity Backup Documentation
All GEAR UP events and activities must be supported by backup documentation.
Due by the 15th of the following month to the regional program director for entry and validation.



REQUIRED ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

WV GEAR UP Grant Program Meetings

October 22, 2026 | January 7, 2027 (VIRTUAL) | March 4, 2027 |
July 20, 2027

WV Student Success Summit
July 21-22, 2027 | Team of 6

Year 7 Budget Planning Meeting
August 3, 2027



NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK

Celebrate National GEAR UP Week
September 21-25, 2026 (Year 5 Workplan)



CLASSROOM ENHANCEMENTS

Technology Enhancements: 11th and 12th Grade Cohort
Ordered by October 15th, Installed by December 1
Cumulative Classroom Enhancement Tracking Reports Due January 31, 2027



ADDITIONAL GRANT ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

Pending approval, additional activities, or services meeting GEAR UP goals and objectives may be provided during the academic year.
Requires WV GEAR UP administrative approval/coordination.



WV GEAR UP WORKPLAN: CLASS OF '27 AND '28 GROUPS	MINIMUM REQUIRED ACTIVITIES	 PRIORITY GROUP ONLY	 SITE LEVEL COORDINATION	 CENTRAL OFFICE COORDINATION	 HOSPITALITY ALLOWED	 MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	 COMPLETION DEADLINE
	Welcome to GEAR UP Day		●		●	●	September 2026
	College Application and Exploration Month		●			●	October 2026
	CTC Campus Visit		●		●	●	March 1, 2027
	Mentor Summit			●	●	●	October 21, 2026
	CAMC Healthcare Career Showcase			●	●	●	October 28, 2026
	Family Action Network			●	●	●	Ongoing
	Higher Education Readiness Officers		●			●	Ongoing
	Student Success Society		●			●	Ongoing
	Student Preview Day			●	●	●	November 2026
	2 FAFSA Completion Workshops Target 67%	●	●		●	●	December 15, 2026 April 15, 2027
	Senior Completion Challenge	●	●	●	●	●	October 2026
	Future U	●		●	●	●	February 23-24, 2027
	Senior Celebration Evening	●		●	●	●	May 2027
	Academic Enrichment: See Below						
	Program-Wide SAT Test Prep Boot Camp		●	●	●	●	April 6-8, 2027
	Dual Credit Courses		●				September 2026- May 2027
	Other Academic Enrichment		●	●		●	Ongoing

Note: All non-recurring (academic enrichment) events/activities are required to be approved by the regional program director through the event notification form. No event may take place unless it has been approved by the RPD. Event notifications should be submitted two weeks in advance when possible.

Note: Food expenditures not to exceed \$15/head for school-level events.

MINIMUM REQUIRED ACTIVITIES	COMMENTS AND WORKPLAN CLARIFICATION
Welcome to GEAR UP Day	Host a welcome to GEAR UP awareness day for students as part of National GEAR UP Week. The event must include information about the federally funded GEAR UP grant and services for the 2026-27 academic year for 12th-grade students new to the GEAR UP program. Site Coordinators are asked to utilize the WV GEAR UP launch toolkit developed by the central office. Resources in the form of informational hand-outs are also available on the website.
College Application and Exploration Month	All students are encouraged to participate and a minimum of 75% of seniors are encouraged to submit at least 2 college or career/technical applications. Priority group activities MUST include time for students to submit college applications. Cohort activities MUST include time for students to explore colleges and careers, and college planning resources. Site coordinators must register their school as a participate in CAEM and are encouraged to scale this event as part of a school-wide effort involving other educators and staff. Toolkits of CAEM resources will be provided to staff.
CTC Campus Visit	Site coordinators will plan a minimum of one in-person visit to a career&technical center or community&technical college campus. Site coordinators are encouraged to couple this trip with other activities such as a job-site visit when possible. Additional college visits will be considered as funds allow.
Mentor Summit	Student Success Society sponsors will attend the 2026 Mentor Summit in Charleston, WV. Mileage reimbursement and/or funding for a substitute teacher, while sponsors are out of the building, will be available through the GEAR UP county grant agreement. Sponsors will receive training and program details that will enable them to begin working with their SSS members beginning in October through May of the academic year.
CAMC Healthcare Career Showcase	Priority and cohort students interested in Healthcare Careers or undecided will attend this one day event hosted by CAMC. WV GEAR UP will sponsor a keynote STEM speaker in addition to the main career showcase. Bagged lunches will be provided.
Family Action Network	The WV GEAR UP grant includes the Family Action Network to build capacity in the area of family engagement for the mission of GEAR UP. The WV GEAR UP central office will coordinate the FANs leadership initiatives.
Higher Education Readiness Officers	Implement and oversee school-level HEROs student leadership group. Implement HERO workplan/challenges. A minimum of 8 meetings with HERO students throughout the academic year is required. Additional details to be shared during GEAR UP staff meetings.
Student Success Society	WV GEAR UP will continue to implement the Student Success Society. Student Success Society members are identified and paired with a group mentor. Site coordinators will coordinate the participation among SSS members and identify SSS sponsors. SSS sponsors will attend (with their student groups) the Mentor Summit in October 2026. Regional program directors will coordinate SSS sponsor contracts.
Student Preview Day	Regional Program Directors will host an on-campus interactive event at WV State University with keynote speakers, opportunities to speak with current students and faculty, and a provided lunch. This event should be targeted towards undecided students from both priority and cohort groups.
2 FAFSA Completion Workshops Target 67%	Host a minimum of two separate FAFSA completion workshops designed to help students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Efforts should be made to meet a GEAR UP goal of 67% FAFSA completions. Events may NOT take place prior to the opening of the FAFSA application.
Senior Completion Challenge	Coordinate a campaign to drive FAFSA, Promise, Invests, and survey completion amongst priority students. At least one event must be targeted at family FAFSA completion. Coordinators will be provided with weekly updates on standings. Events may NOT take place prior to October 1, 2026.
Future U	Priority Group must attend Future U, a simulated college orientation experience hosted by the Central Office at the Charleston Coliseum. Lunch will be provided.
Senior Celebration Evening	The Central Office will host regional events where transition services will be provided to priority students and their families. Site coordinators are invited and encouraged to attend to see students recognized for committing to postsecondary education and training.
Academic Enrichment (See below):	
Program-Wide SAT Test Prep Boot Camp	Coordinated and funded by the central GEAR UP office, an SAT Test Prep Boot Camp will be scheduled at a centralized location focused on improving math and test-taking skills.
Dual Credit Courses	GEAR UP seniors may be eligible for the funding of dual credit courses identified through institutional partners for certain pathways. In the event that a course is not covered under the program's provision and a course is listed on the 2024-25 General Studies and Course Equivalency Transfer Agreement, GU funds may be used to cover the course. Student enrollment in all dual credit courses will be need to be tracked for reporting purposes.
Other Academic Enrichment	Academic enrichment funds may be used for additional academic support for the 12th grade cohort. WV GEAR UP central office will continue to provide 24/7 online tutoring access through Brainfuse. A minimum target of 10% of GEAR UP cohort 2 students must receive academic enrichment support. The central office will coordinate package choices for schools to streamline and enhance academic enrichment selection. Additional academic enrichment funds (county budgets) may be used for other SAT/ACT prep, credit recovery opportunities (not already funded through other existing sources), AP exams, and in some cases partial funding for programs like Early College Academy (with approval from WV GEAR UP administration).

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