AN INTRODUCTION TO GEAR UP • 2018-2019

STATEWIDE TRAINING
INTRODUCTION TO GEAR UP

OVERVIEW

▸ Research
▸ National GEAR UP
▸ Utah’s Statewide GEAR UP Program
▸ Region 1 GEAR UP: Weber State University
  ▸ Organization, Training, Student Recruitment & Eligibility, Outreach, Tracking, Services, Vision
RESEARCH
Compared to their low-income peers in other states, low-income students in Utah are significantly less likely to enroll in college (Mortenson, 2010).

Enrollment in remedial courses is tied to decreased college graduation rates (Conley, 2007).

Students are at a greater risk of dropping out of high school if they are inadequately prepared or feel disconnected from their high school organization (Neild, 2009).

The more information and guidance students have, the more likely they will enroll in college (Berkner and Chavez, 1997; Bell, Rowan-Kenyon, and Perna, 2009).
In Utah, there has historically been a shortage of counselors available to assist students with the college application process, but is gradually improving (DSD - 1:356; WSD - 1:355). (Utah State Board of Education, 2017)

The college participation rate of students on free and reduced student lunch is approximately 20 percent lower than for those not on FRL (Utah System of Higher Education, 2017).

Low-income students are more reliant on school staff than their own families to learn about postsecondary options, preparation, and financing (Bell, Rowan-Kenyon, and Perna, 2009)

Availability of financial aid information is linked to increased college enrollment (Bell, Rowan-Kenyon, and Perna, 2009)

Many low-income students and their parents drastically underestimate the costs of college and are not adequately prepared (Utah's Statewide GEAR UP Education Program, 2011)
THINK—PAIR—SHARE

What picture does this research paint?

What ideas come to your mind on how we can come together as a community to make a difference?

How can you personally become an agent for change?
NATIONAL GEAR UP INITIATIVE
“In today’s global economy, what you earn depends on what you learn. This bill will make it easier for millions of Americans to get the higher education they need to succeed in the global economy...It responds to the challenge I issued in the State of the Union to create a ‘High Hopes’ initiative, where colleges reach down to middle school students in high-poverty areas to give them the support they need to be ready for higher education.”

President Bill Clinton, 1998
GEAR UP was created to provide communities with a comprehensive, holistic and research-driven initiative to prepare low-income and minority students for higher education.

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
GEAR UP began in 1998 and last year alone, served over 640,000 students nationwide in 48 states.

Students who enroll in GEAR UP are more than 30% more likely than non-GEAR UP students to enroll in higher education immediately after high school.
UTAH’S STATEWIDE GEAR UP PROGRAM
UTAH’S STATEWIDE GEAR UP PROGRAM

- Central office: Utah Valley University
- Awarded a 7-year $26 million grant for 2011-18
- Recently awarded another 7-year $24.5 million GEAR UP grant for 2017-24
- 54 secondary schools, 16 school districts, 11 counties
- 4,850 students projected to be served statewide each year from 2017-24
1. Increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.

2. Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.

3. Increase GEAR UP students’ and their families’ knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparations, and financing.

4. Increase GEAR UP students’ success in their first year of attendance at an institution of higher education.
GEAR UP, REGION 1:
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
GEAR UP, REGION 1: WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

DUAL GRANTS

- **2011-2018 GEAR UP Grant**
  - Davis School District: Clearfield HS, Layton HS, Mountain HS
  - Weber School District: Roy HS
  - WSU First Year Students

- **2018-2024 GEAR UP Grant**
  - Davis School District: Northridge HS, Syracuse HS, North Layton JH, Syracuse JH, Sunset JH
  - Weber School District: Bonneville HS, TH Bell JH, South Ogden JH
  - WSU First Year Students
OVERVIEW

- Vision
- Organization
- Training
- Student Recruitment & Eligibility
- Outreach
- Tracking
- Services
GEAR UP IMPLEMENTATION

TAKING GEAR UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL

- Sense of ownership (schools, students, parents)
- Solid collaboration
- Disassociate negative stigmas
- Improve accessibility to GU services
- Greater intentionality in GU services
GEAR UP UTAH

REGION 1

TRAINING
GEAR UP, REGION 1: TRAINING

HOW DO WE TRAIN OUR STAFF?

- Internal on-boarding, bi-weekly meetings, on-site, & summer trainings
- UHEAA FAFSA Boot Camps
- WSU training and professional development
- State and national conferences:
  - USHE Conference
  - ACT Conference
  - GEAR UP national and regional conferences
GEAR UP, REGION 1: TRAINING

TRAINING & COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEAR UP PARTNERS

- WSU Access & Diversity Department
  - FAFSA Boot Camps
  - School Partner Breakfast
  - Multicultural Youth Conference
  - Senior Recognition Night
- National GEAR UP Conferences
  - Capacity Building Workshop (Feb 4-7, Las Vegas)
  - Annual Conference (July 15-18, Washington D.C.)
  - GEAR UP West (Oct 14-16, Boise)
TRAINING & COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEAR UP PARTNERS

- Region 1 GEAR UP Partner Meetings
  - How often should we, as Weber & Davis School District GEAR UP, meet? (e.g. quarterly, bi-annually)
  - What should the content of those meetings be?
    - Data review
    - Strategizing & Implementation
    - Sharing best practices
    - Collaborating
    - What worked? What didn’t?
GEAR UP UTAH

REGION 1

STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ELIGIBILITY
GEAR UP Utah
2017-2024 Application

School Location: ____________________________
(Print School Name)
Are you in TRIO’s Upward Bound, and/or Educational Talent Search (ETS)? Yes ___ No ___

Student Information
Name: ____________________________
Grade: ______ Age: ______ Gender: ______
Address: ____________________________
City: __________________ Zip: ______
Anticipated high school graduation year: ______
Student Cell Number: ______
Parent/Guardian(s) Relationship to student: ______
Student email: ____________________________
Student social media username: ____________________________
Parent/Guardian Home Phone: ______
Parent/Guardian Child Phone: ______
Parent/Guardian Email: ____________________________

Used only to send articles, forms, or updates on activities or scholarships:
Parent/Guardian Name(s): ____________________________

Please check the method of contact you would prefer
☐ Home # ☐ Cell # ☐ Email

What language is spoken in the home? ____________________________
Have you been in foster care at any time during the prior academic year? Yes ___ No ___
Have you been homeless at any time during the prior academic year? Yes ___ No ___

Please see back of application for definition.
Do you have any other siblings in high school? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what school? ______

Race (check one, required for federal reporting)
American Indian or Alaskan Native ______ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ______
Asian ______ White ______
Black or African American ______ Two or More Races ______

Ethnicity (check one, required for federal reporting)
Hispanic/Latino ______ Non Hispanic/Non Latino ______

By completing and returning this application form, you are submitting yourself for consideration to participate in Utah’s Statewide GEAR UP Education Program. This program is designed to help students graduate from high school and prepare themselves for successful enrollment in and completion of college.

Student Signature: ____________________________ Date: ______

I verify all information given is correct.

Defining Homeless
The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations

For Office Use Only:
GEAR UP Counselor/Advisor: Initial: ______ Enrollment Date: ______
IEP: Yes ___ No ___ LEP: Yes ___ No ___
Homeless: Yes ___ No ___ Foster Care: Yes ___ No ___
Date entry/verification of enrollment packet:
Release ___ FRLV ___ Entered into Compass by: ______ Date: ______

(office use only)
GEAR UP Utah
Authorization for Release of Information

I, ____________________________, do hereby grant the representative of Utah’s Statewide GEAR UP Education Program, including their external evaluators, authorization to contact parents/guardians and students, and to release and/or obtain information from social media, school, district and state data sources regarding the following individual:

Student’s Name (Please Print):
This release is effective as of the date signed.

Reason for release of Information:
To track student’s success in school and help facilitate their preparation for and success in continuing their education beyond middle school and high school.
Specific types of information to be released (this information may be provided by the school, district or State Office of Education):

X: Class Schedules
X: Transcripts, Grade Reports, & Test Scores
X: Cumulative Student Record
X: Attendance
X: IEP/LEP Information
X: Free/Reduced Lunch Status/Eligibility
X: Student State ID
X: College and Career Readiness Information

I also authorize GEAR UP personnel to take photos/videos of my student during GEAR UP activities and use them for historical, informational, and promotional purposes by the GEAR UP program. By signing this document I release the above agencies/individuals from any and all liability for revealing and/or releasing such information.

I understand that I may revoke this release at any time by informing this agency in writing.

Student Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Utah’s Statewide GEAR UP Counselor/Advisor ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Any additional individuals who may have access to protected student information disclosed by students during our session(s) (i.e. adding, grandparent, or other parent representative)__________________________ ____________________________

Name: ____________________________ Phone Number: ____________________________


GEAR UP Utah
Parent/Guardian Declaration of Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian,
In order for your student to qualify to be enrolled in Utah’s Statewide GEAR UP Education Program, they need to be eligible under the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Guidelines. Please review the chart below and refer to it as you complete the rest of the form. Military Personnel do not need to include housing allowance when reporting income.

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<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Twice Per Month</th>
<th>Every Two Weeks</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
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<td>6,534</td>
<td>3,267</td>
<td>3,016</td>
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</table>

This table is valid from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

The total gross income for my household is $___________ per (circle one) year / month / twice per month / every two weeks / weekly.

According to the chart above, my family’s income is (circle one) above / below the matching income level for my household size.

Based on this information, my son/daughter ____________________________ (free student’s name) is:
☐ Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch  ☐ Not Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: ____________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

*Please note that this form is not an Application for Free & Reduced Price School Meals, but rather an eligibility certification form for the GEAR UP Program. If you would like to apply for the Free & Reduced Price School Meals Program, please contact your student’s school.

Please return this form to your GEAR UP Counselor/Advisor.

For Office Use Only: Accepted ___ Denied___ Counselor Initials __ Date ___

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Page 4 of 4
PROJECTED YEARLY ENROLLMENT (2017-2024)
RECRUITMENT METHODS

- Personal referrals from counselors, teachers, students
- Registration packets
- Events involving parents & guardians (e.g. PTC)
- Mailings, email, social media
- Tabling during lunch or at other events
- Announcements
- Presentations (e.g. assemblies, classes)
- And more…
GEAR UP UTAH REGION 1 OUTREACH
HOW DOES GEAR UP COMMUNICATE WITH STUDENTS & PARENTS?

- Face-to-Face
- Email (Constant Contact, newsletters)
- Texting (Remind/Signal Vine)
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram)
- Mailings
- Phone Calls
- Website
GEAR UP, REGION 1: TRACKING

TRACKING STUDENT PROGRESS & PARTICIPATION

- Transcripts and standardized test scores
- School Database for Students (to view attendance, missing assignments, etc.)
- Checklists for each grade
- GEAR UP forms:
  - Contact Logs
  - Sign-in Sheets
  - Tutor Records
- Annual Surveys
- Senior Exit Forms (tracks FAFSA, scholarship, and college app completion)
2016–2017 School Year

4 Schools Served
- Mountain High School
- Layton High School
- Roy High School
- Clearfield High School

390 Total Number of Program Participants

51% Participants Identify as Ethnic or Racial Minority

185 Students in Senior Cohort

$1,148,411 Total Scholarship Earned by Our Senior Cohort

94 Senior Cohort Students Enrolled in College Fall 2017

106 Senior Cohort Students Who Completed FAFSA

State GEAR UP Rate
- 57% vs 34%
- High School Grad Enrollment First Year of College
- 51% vs 52%

Weber State University
Access & Diversity
801-626-7006
weber.edu/accessanddiversity
GEAR UP UTAH REGION 1 SERVICES
GEAR UP SERVICES

- Mentoring and advising
- College and career exploration
- Financial literacy, financial aid, and scholarship information
- Summer programs
- College visits and career exploration
- Family events
- College application support
- Test preparation and study skills
- Tutoring and homework assistance
PART II
GEAR UP IMPLEMENTATION
OVERVIEW

▸ Facility use
▸ Mentoring & Advising
▸ Tutoring
▸ Workshops
▸ Campus Visits
▸ Activities
▸ First Year College Services
GEAR UP SPACE

- Office space for advising
  - Auditory privacy
  - Desktop with printer/internet access
  - Desk and basic supplies
  - Phone (e.g. for calling admissions offices)
  - Storage (e.g. filing cabinet, closet)
- Space for tutoring (e.g. library)
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- Space for tutoring (e.g. library)
GEAR UP ADVICEING

- Student checklists
- 1:1 and small group sessions
- When do we provide advising?
  - Between classes (late slip)
  - During classes (excusal slip)
  - During lunch, after-school, advisory

Get involved in your school and community.
- Volunteer in your community. Find volunteer opportunities with U Serve Utah (serve.utah.gov) and United Way (211 volunteers).
- Sign up for at least one school club or after-school program. Talk to your school counselor or a teacher about what opportunities are available.

Explore college options.
- Read through the Utah College Directory on StepUpUtah.com to discover what colleges in Utah may be right for you.
- Talk with your parents, friends and community members about their college experience, and start thinking about what you want out of your education.

Do high school right.
- If you haven’t already, sign up to be a StepUp Utah Scholar.
- Meet with your school counselor and develop a four-year high school plan.
- Sign up for the monthly StepUp newsletter at StepUpUtah.com/newsletter to get college preparation tips.
- Review the Regents’ Scholarship requirements on RegentsScholarship.org.

Learn about the different ways to pay for college.
- Read about the various ways to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans on StepUpUtah.com.
- Make a plan to pay for college with your parents.
- Start to build a scholarship and college admissions resume to track your achievements. Use the template found in the scholarship toolkit at StepUpUtah.com to get you started.
- With the help of an adult, open a college savings account for you. Learn more at weap.org. If you already have a savings account, contribute what you can to it.
GEAR UP, REGION 1: MENTORING & ADVISING

GEAR UP ADVISING

- Student checklists
- 1:1 and small group sessions
- When do we provide advising?
  - Between classes (late slip)
  - During classes (excusal slip)
  - During lunch, after-school, advisory
GEAR UP, REGION 1: MENTORING & ADVISING

GEAR UP ADVISING

- Student checklists
- 1:1 and small group sessions
- When do we provide advising?
  - Between classes (late slip)
  - During classes (excusal slip)
  - During lunch, after-school, advisory
GEAR UP, REGION 1: TUTORING

TUTORING

- Embedded tutoring
- Near-peer model
  - WSU students
  - GEAR UP Alumni
- Academic coaching
- All topics including ACT Prep
GEAR UP, REGION 1: WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS

- Redefining “workshop”
- “It takes a village…” (e.g. school faculty and staff, WSU students and staff, community, GU alumni)
- Who, when, where, WHY, how
GEAR UP, REGION 1: WORKSHOPS

FAMILY NIGHT

- Once per semester
- During National GEAR UP Week
- Conference style
- Spanish/English
- Relevant & engaging
- Dinner

RSVP by April 11th!
weber.edu/stategearup/events.html
CAMPUS VISITS
REGION 1
COLLEGE & CAREER FIELD TRIPS

- Goal: Both informative and ENGAGING
COLLEGE & CAREER FIELD TRIPS

- Goal: Both informative and ENGAGING
- Collaborate with departments = hands on experience
GEAR UP, REGION 1: FIELD TRIPS

COLLEGE & CAREER FIELD TRIPS

- Goal: Both informative and ENGAGING
  - Collaborate with departments = hands on experience
  - Intentionality
COLLEGE & CAREER FIELD TRIPS

- Goal: Both informative and ENGAGING
  - Collaborate with departments = hands on experience
  - Intentionality
  - Social media
GEAR UP, REGION 1: FIELD TRIPS

COLLEGE & CAREER FIELD TRIPS

- Goal: Both informative and ENGAGING
  - Collaborate with departments = hands on experience
  - Intentionality
  - Social media
- Name tags, folders, permission slips
OTHER GEAR UP ACTIVITIES

- National GEAR UP Week (September)
GEAR UP, REGION 1: ACTIVITIES

OTHER GEAR UP ACTIVITIES

- National GEAR UP Week (September)
- Signing Day / Senior Recognition Night (May 3)
GEAR UP, REGION 1: ACTIVITIES

OTHER GEAR UP ACTIVITIES

- National GEAR UP Week (September)
- Signing Day / Senior Recognition Night (May 3)
- Summer ACT Boot Camp
GEAR UP, REGION 1: ACTIVITIES

OTHER GEAR UP ACTIVITIES

- National GEAR UP Week (September)
- Signing Day / Senior Recognition Night (May 3)
- Summer ACT Boot Camp
- GEAR UP Connections (Summer Bridge)
GEAR UP, REGION 1: FIRST YEAR COLLEGE SERVICES

FIRST YEAR SERVICES

- GEAR UP assists first year GEAR UP students with:
  - Class registration
  - First-year advising
  - Success workshops
  - Summer Bridge
  - Referrals to campus resources & services
  - FAFSA & Scholarships
    - WSU Access & Diversity tuition waiver
  - Support at colleges & universities beyond WSU
REFERENCES


REFERENCES


WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

- **Websites**
  - GEAR UP, Region 1 (WSU): [www.weber.edu/stategearup](http://www.weber.edu/stategearup)
  - Utah’s Statewide GEAR UP Program: [www.uvu.edu/gearup](http://www.uvu.edu/gearup)
  - National GEAR UP / NCCEP: [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org)

- **GEAR UP, Region 1 (WSU) social media links**
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StateGEARUP](http://www.facebook.com/StateGEARUP)
  - Instagram: [www.instagram.com/stategearup](http://www.instagram.com/stategearup)

- **Hashtags & Handles**
  - #stategearup #GEARUPworks #IheartGEARUP @StateGEARUP
CONTACT INFORMATION
CONTACT INFORMATION

- Mailing Address
  - 2750 University Park Blvd., Dept. 0152, Bldg 2 Rm 308, Layton, UT 84041
- Phone: (801) 395-3547
- Email: stategearup@weber.edu