

What's UP in GEAR UP SWV

"Securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia."



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What is GEAR UP SWV?

GEAR UP Southern West Virginia's (GEAR UP SWV) primary purpose is to help students graduate from high school and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP SWV works with two grade levels, currently 7th and 8th graders, in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties to ensure high school graduation and success in college. The high school classes of 2028 and 2029 in these counties will experience college campus visits, have access to 24/7 tutoring and much more thanks to your work with this program.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is part of a national grant program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Southern West Virginia has suffered big socio-economic challenges for years but GEAR UP SWV will work to change the trajectory of the region by providing opportunities and tools for students to pursue and succeed in college.

GEAR UP SWV is a program that supports teachers, school districts, students, and families on the education journey. Together, we are securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia.

WWW.CONCORD.EDU/GEARUP

[@gearupswv](mailto:gearupswv) | gearup@concord.edu



GEAR UP SWV STAFF

GEAR UP SWV employees are devoted to empowering students to fulfill their potential to achieve post-high school success. We are proud to be a part of Concord University and to partner with New River Community and Technical College as well as Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh and Wyoming County Schools.

The central staff consists of 9 employees. Each GEAR UP SWV team member plays an essential role in creating relationships and opportunities for the class of 2028 and 2029.



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GEAR UP SWV Strategy



West Virginia is rated as one of the highest low-income states in America, listed in 4th place.

Together, we can change this through increasing services such as mentoring, workshops, college visits, and financial literacy lessons.



Unemployment rates rose in West Virginia to 7.9%, while America's national average unemployment rate declined to 6.3%.

This can be combated through career exploration and job shadowing to support future employees within West Virginia.



Low postsecondary rates lower West Virginia employment opportunities.

Increasing enrollment rates of four-year colleges will increase better-paying job opportunities. Bachelor graduates make twice as much as high school graduates.



The average income of a person living in West Virginia is \$46,711, while the average annual income for the nation is \$68,703, putting West Virginia at a \$21,992 difference from the national average.

Postsecondary success activities increase employment opportunities and increase one's annual income.



The National Center for Education Statistics calculated that college attendees from rural areas comprise 29%, while people from cities were 48%.

Increasing academic counseling and college visits aid in the availability of resources for children and families in rural areas.



Income level affects students' academic performance, represented in a math proficiency test comparison indicating a decreasing gap between 8th and 11th graders within West Virginia.

GEAR UP SWV services provide 24-hour online tutor services that increase students' academic performance.

@gearupswv | gearup@concord.edu

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How does GEAR UP SWV benefit you?

GEAR UP seeks to promote success in students through activities, guidance, relationships, and resources. GEAR UP SWV offers free, 24/7 tutoring for students through Tutor.com. Class of 2028 students will also have one-to-one mentorship to ensure academic, social, and mental support from Student Support Agency. We provide summer camp scholarships to STEM centered learning camps and other summer learning fun! GEAR UP SWV prepares students for post-secondary success through exciting college visits, college readiness activities, financial literacy, and exposure to numerous career paths. Additionally, GEAR UP SWV partners with parents and teachers through parent leadership and teacher development.



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GEAR UP SWV Parent Advisory Committee is forming! Please share this [link](#) with all GEAR UP SWV parents. We want each family to have the opportunity to join the team!

PARENTS CORNER

Parents/Guardians
CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER

for the Parent Advisory
Committee

Parents can
help with the
mission.



October: Financial Literacy

For Parents/Guardians

Get a Life Home Edition is a hands-on financial education experience that will introduce parents to the realities of managing a family budget.

[More financial education resources for the family.](#)

For Teachers

Teachers can implement the [Get a Life](#) program with help from the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office. Students are first given a red card with a job title, family size, and monthly income. The red cards only have jobs available in West Virginia without any post-secondary education (like college or a trade school).

Financial Literacy

Budgeting: A financial plan you put in place in order to manage money. Within a budget there are two different types of expenses, fixed and variable.

Fixed Expense: These are costs that remain constant despite the situation. Examples include: Monthly car payments, rent, mortgage payment, etc.

Variable Expense: Costs that change month to month. Variable expenses are also referred to as unexpected expenses. Examples include: Car repairs, clothing, groceries, gasoline, medical expenses, etc.

[Full Story Here](#)

More states are teaching financial literacy. It could pay off for students struggling with math.

GEAR UP SWV School Spotlight



Road Branch Elementary

Students at Road Branch Elementary in Wyoming County learned about the importance of budgeting and saving through the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office program called, "[Get a Life.](#)" Your school can participate too!

For more information contact The West Virginia State Treasurer's Office Financial Education Programs division. Phone: 304-558-5000 Email: wvtreasury@wvsto.com



A Service of The Princeton Review

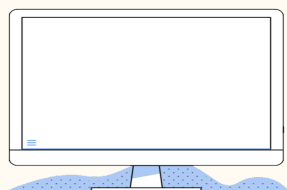
Homework help has arrived for families and teachers, GEAR UP SWV schools, students and families. Tutor.com is now available to GEAR UP SWV students 13-years or older. The service will help bridge the gap between the classroom and learning brought on by the pandemic for the high school classes of 2028 and 2029.

"But I don't need a tutor!"

How tutor.com is for everyone in the years after the pandemic.



The fact is, most students will have to miss a day or two for excused reasons. Missing just one day could cause a student to miss learning that's crucial in the years ahead. Even if it's not right away or even in the same year, students and parents might not see the impact until it's too late. Think of tutor.com as a preventative measure not a remedy. Even if a student has an "A" in their classes, this resource can help prevent learning gaps. Unfortunately, the reality is, every student enrolled in school during the pandemic missed something, whether we realize it or not. Connecting with this credible source, can help everyone get past it and stay on top of learning --- as long as we login.



- 1. Visit [tutor.com/GEARUPSWV](https://www.tutor.com/GEARUPSWV)**
- 2. Enter the username, which is the same as the Student ID**
- 3. Enter the password GEARUPSWV**

Please help to share this information with GEAR UP SWV teachers, administrators, students and families. They can access Tutor.com by going to www.tutor.com/gearupswv. More information is also available at our website, concord.edu/gearupswv, look under the Parent Resources tab. Students younger than 13 years of age should have their parents/guardians sign and return a paper permission slip before using tutor.com.

STUDENT SUCCESS AGENCY™

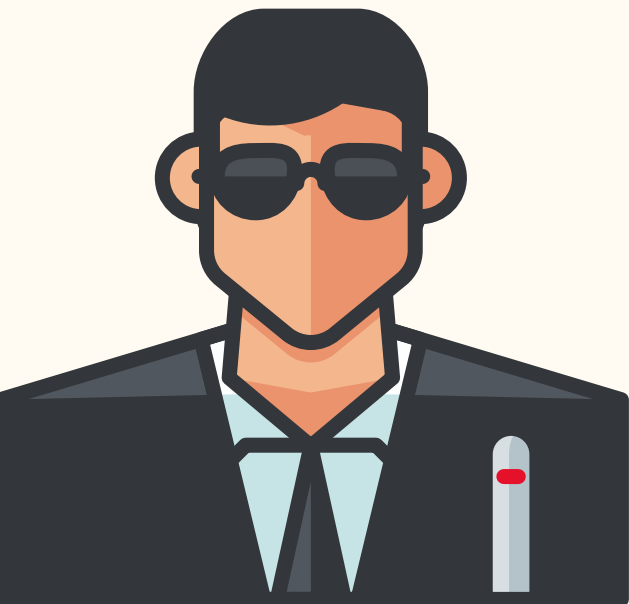
Eighth grade GEAR UP SWV students will soon have their very own “agent” as we have partnered with the Student Success Agency to provide one to one mentoring.

[More information here.](#)

**Local Coordinators,
Make sure to connect
with your Partnership
Coordinator to pick a
date and plan the visit!**



The need to help students extends beyond the school walls. After school hours are when students are working on their homework, or extracurricular activities. Student Success Agency will boost staff capacity by offering students personalized mentoring anytime/anywhere! Their agent can provide social emotional support through ongoing coaching for academic, college, career and life success.





Student Sound Off!

GEAR UP Southern West Virginia Campus Visit Survey



We need your help! Please have students who visited a college campus to fill out the survey at the QR code below. (The answers will help guide future plans!)

CONNECT WITH GEAR UP SWV

Remember to share your events on social media and with GEAR UP staff so we can help celebrate around the state (and country)! Be sure to tag GEAR UP SWV and use these hashtags on social media: #GEARUPworks and #GEARUPSWV give us a follow on the following platforms and keep up with the rest of the GEAR UP SWV team, find out about upcoming events and more!



@gearupswv



@GEARUPSWV



GEAR UP SWV

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WORKING WITH US?

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We are off to a great start with the 7 year mission to increase the college going rate for the class of 2028 and 2029 in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh and Wyoming Counties. We are thankful to YOU for the work you are doing with GEAR UP SWV.

THANK
YOU

***Together we ARE securing
a legacy of strength and
resilience in Appalachia.***

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