

What's UP in GEAR UP SWV

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

March: Plan for the Future



GEAR UP SOUTHERN
WEST VIRGINIA
CONCORD • NEW RIVER CTC

Featured Articles:

- Does My School Host a "College-Going Culture?"
- Nine Ways to Determine a College Going Culture
- Supporting Your College Going Culture
- Updated Summer Camp Dates
- National GEAR UP Academy
- Hosting a GEAR UP SWV Event?
- Empowering Parents

- College and a career can feel far off, but it is time to start planning now! Students can start with a big picture goal, then figure out the steps needed to achieve it. You've got this!
- What will you be doing next year? Students should be preparing to take Algebra 1. One GEAR UP SWV goal is to help students complete Algebra 1 by the end of their 9th grade year. Research shows completing Algebra 1 by the end of 9th grade increases the likelihood a student will attend college.
- Students need your support in planning for their future. When will you talk with GEAR UP SWV students about their goals?

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



GEAR UP SWV

Does My School Host a "College-Going Culture?"



UC Berkeley's Center for Educational Partnerships says, "College-Going Culture (CGC) refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access to and success in post-secondary education."

- UC Berkeley's Center for Educational Partnerships, College-Going Culture.

Nine Ways to Determine a College Going Culture

1. **Comprehensive Counseling**
2. **Testing & Curriculum**
3. **College talk**
4. **Clear Expectations**
5. **Information & Resources**
6. **Faculty Involvement**
7. **Family Involvement**
8. **College Partnerships**
9. **Articulation between elementary, middle, & high school**

According to UC Berkeley.

Where We Are Now

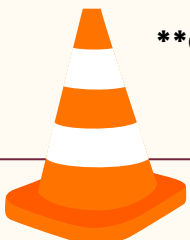
The Spring 2023 Educators Survey captured the educators' perspective

in each GEAR UP SWV school on each of the nine elements in their own school.

College-going baseline scores for GEAR UP SWV schools range from 1.7 to 3.1 (out of 4), with **Road Branch Elementary and Middle reporting the highest college-going baseline score.**

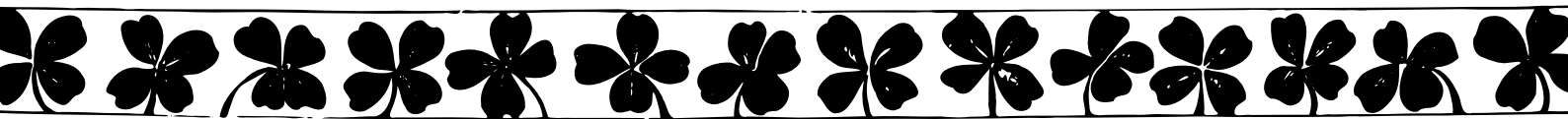
*Right now, averages for GEAR UP SWV schools show Comprehensive Counseling and Testing & Curriculum are the strongest of the nine elements, both averaging 2.5 out of four.

****Complete data will be given to each county/school at the April RAC meeting. Talk with your county's GEAR UP SWV Partnership Coordinator for more information.**



Supporting Your College Going Culture

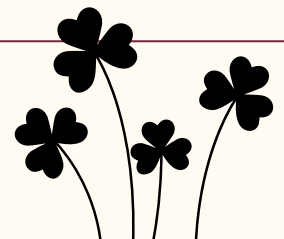
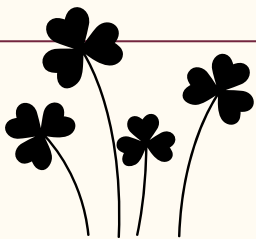
One of our GEAR UP SWV goals (4.2) is to increase the College-Going Culture in each of our schools to a college-going baseline score of at least a 3 (out of 4). A score of 3 for any of the 9 elements indicates that the element is in place and there is evidence it occurs. The college-going baseline score is the average of the scores for all nine elements.



Plan for a College Going Culture in Your School



GEAR UP SWV will be providing tools to counties for increasing College-Going Culture in their schools to consider while developing GY3 workplans. Each school is different and has different strengths, so each will require a unique approach to boosting their college-going culture across the board!



Updated Dates - GEAR UP SWV 2024 Summer Camps



GEAR UP SWV 2024 Summer Camps



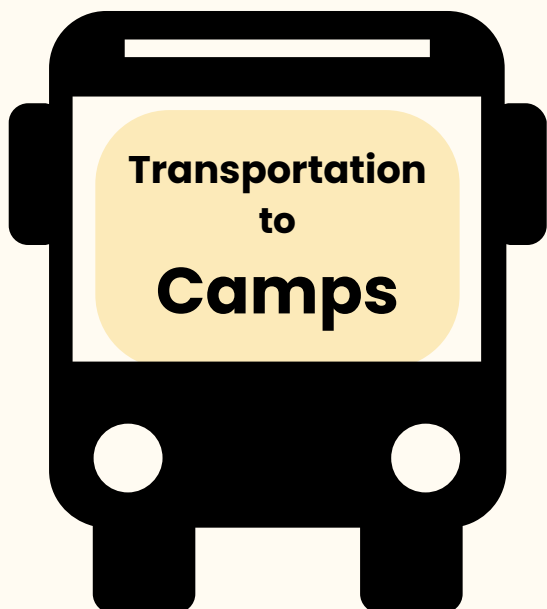
- Adventure/Leadership Day Camp at New River Technical and Community College - June 10 - 14
- STEM Camp at WVU Tech (overnight) - June 17-21
- GEAR UP SWV Concord University Media Day Camp - June 24-28

- Student Leadership Retreat at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC (overnight) - July 14 -18
- Adventure STEM Day Camp (ACE Adventure) - July 30 - August 1



**Summer
BOSS
Program
with SSA -
details
coming
soon!**

Watch GEAR UP SWV social media pages for more information. Check concord.edu/gearup to register.



**Did you know, you can include
daily transportation to 2024
GEAR UP SWV Summer Camps
in your work plan?
Talk with your Partnership
Coordinator for more
information.**

National GEAR UP Academy



Staff and partners participate in National GEAR UP Academy



“The National GEAR UP Academy is designed to develop the skills, knowledge, and practices of GEAR UP leaders, practitioners, and partners. With intentional engagement, this event concentrates on topics relevant to GEAR UP with a focus on tools, key information, and team time. The program is offered to counties and Local Coordinators. Talk with your county’s Partnership Coordinator to include in your GY3 Workplan and Budget.”

– More at [NCCEP’s website](#)



The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) shared an update about the 2024 Education Appropriations during the National GEAR UP Academy in February. NCCEP President Alex Chough shared that Congress continues to address federal education funding for fiscal year 2024, including GEAR UP funds. While the continuing resolution governing education spending runs through February 2, 2024, the list of unresolved differences is daunting. However, as concerning as this is, it will not directly impact the current programming of GEAR UP SWV, as this year’s funding has already been placed in the Government disbursement system (G5). Contact GEAR UP SWV Director, Kristen O’Sullivan, with any questions or concerns. kosullivan@concord.edu



Alex Chough,
NCCEP President



Hosting a GEAR UP SWV Event?

New Tools Help Collect and Report Data

Service Documentation Toolkit is available at concord.edu/GEARUP on the Local Coordinators tab

The kit
Includes:

Information:

- List of Activities for Data Collection (Examples)
- File Explaining the GEAR UP SWV Data Collection Process
- GEAR UP SWV Service Documentation Infographic

New Sign-In Sheets

- GEAR UP SWV One-on-One Sign-in Sheet
- GEAR UP SWV Staff Sign-in Sheet
- GEAR UP SWV Activity Sign-in Sheet
- Watch for new event notification forms!

As part of a federally funded grant program, GEAR UP SWV must document activities. GEAR UP SWV depends on Local Coordinators to collect this information during events. To help streamline the process, GEAR UP SWV created a Service Documentation Toolkit. This Service Documentation Toolkit is a one-stop place to find information about GEAR UP SWV data collection process, examples of where they can be used, and updated activity sign-in sheets.

Mercer, Summers and Wyoming Counties

**STUDENT SUCCESS
AGENCY™**

Please remind 8th graders to have their parents/guardians to sign and upload the permission slips! Talk with your Partnership Coordinator for more permission slips, questions, etc.

Those who return the parent consent forms will unlock access to SSA+ and can receive one-on-one messaging with an assigned agent and personalized opportunities based on their goals. Those without a parent consent form can still receive mentoring services, but it will be a group chat forum instead of one-on-one. Parent consent forms can be signed and digitally uploaded to the Winbox App.

Empowering Parents

Helping Students with Disabilities Prepare for Work

Helping students on the journey from high school to adult life can bring many challenges and rewards. The earlier transition planning begins the better. Transition planning includes a student's goals for working, learning, and living once they leave high school. The process is based on their needs and should consider their strengths, preferences, and interests. Consider what support and accommodations students might need at their job, school, home, or community. Find out more on the [Pathways to the Future](#) website.

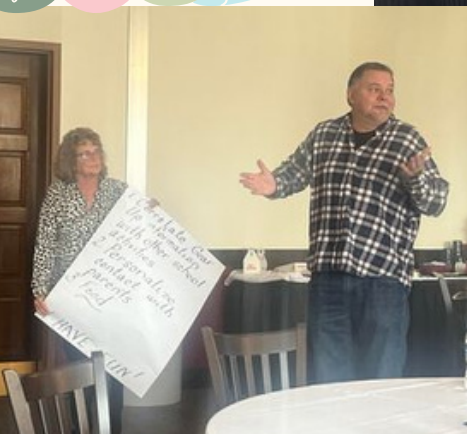
There are many parent groups that can provide support as well. The Parent Educator Resource Centers or PERCs provide training and information related to education advocacy, issues, community services, and transition planning.



We are so excited to work with GEAR UP SWV parents/guardians! We are thankful to have Mrs. Cristina Garzoria lead discussions about parent engagement. Garzoria is the Lead Counselor at Porter Early College High School and has experience empowering parents with students in a GEAR UP program in Texas! There, parents make decisions and help plan events that help students graduate high school and succeed in college!



We loved having our GEAR UP SWV Local Coordinators and some parents/guardians on campus and can't wait to see the GEAR UP SWV Parent Advisory Committee come together! For more information about how to get involved, email gearup@concord.edu.



GEAR UP relies on your advocacy for continued funding from the federal government. How has GEAR UP helped you or your community? Send us an email at gearup@concord.edu or record a video with your message and share it on Facebook messenger! We would love to hear what GEAR UP SWV means to your community!

Thank you Huff Consolidated for sharing your videos!

We are charging into some great summer programs. With your help, they will be a success!

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



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