



2008-2009 MONTANA GEAR UP Annual Summary

Montana GEAR UP is finishing the fourth year of a six-year, \$18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number of students from low-income communities who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. This is Montana's second statewide GEAR UP grant. The program's three goals are to promote early college and career awareness; financial aid awareness, planning, and scholarships; and increased academic support and rigor. The program serves an entire grade/cohort of students beginning in the seventh grade and follows the class through high school. Grant funds are also used to provide scholarships.

2008-2009 Quick Facts

- ✓ Served 3,579 students in 7th through 10th grades in 25 schools (66% American Indian, 32% Caucasian, and 2% other).
- ✓ Sponsored 270 school personnel to attend 27 different professional development opportunities, including: the Montana School Counselors Association Institute, Parents of Academically Successful Students Educator Workshop, Be Real training, the Montana Behavioral Institute, and the Montana Reading Institute.
- ✓ Partnered with the Governor's Office for the annual student poster contest to promote awareness of the Governor and First Lady's Math and Science Initiative. 288 7th and 8th grade students from 17 GEAR UP schools submitted a poster illustrating this year's theme: "It All Adds Up: Math + Science = College Success."
- ✓ Developed a college visit curriculum for schools, including college visits in middle and high school, a pre- and post-college visit curriculum, guidelines for visits, a GPA game on college admission, and a student college visit survey.
- ✓ Funded ACT's EXPLORE test for 594 8th grade students at 22 GEAR UP schools and ACT's PLAN test for 580 10th grade students at 20 schools. Both tests are precursors to the ACT test in the 11th grade.
- ✓ Offered academic enrichment summer camps at MSU-Northern, Carroll College, Dawson Community College, and MSU-Bozeman, serving over 216 GEAR UP students. Additionally funded 13 local summer programs for academic enrichment and credit recovery.
- ✓ Conducted financial aid presentations at 25 GEAR UP schools to 1234 middle school students.

GEAR UP Activities for the 7th-10th Grade Cohorts

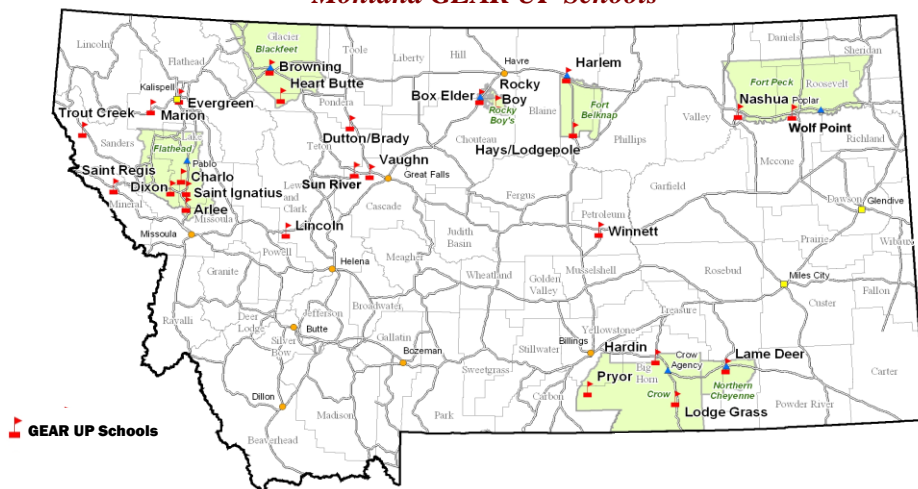
Number of students served April 2008 – March 2009:

- Tutoring & academic enrichment services: 2868
- Counseling: academic, career/college, & financial: 2220
- Workshops: academic, college/career, & financial: 2056
- Cultural events: 1665
- College visits/college student shadowing: 1549
- Educational field trips: 948
- Family events: 869

Survey and Evaluation Highlights

- Educators cited tutoring, college visits, and study skills classes as the top experiences that would help improve students' chances for attending and succeeding in college.
- Cost was cited by parents and students as the top reason why students would not continue their education beyond high school. Educators cited lack of interest.
- You have to be in class to learn: 83 percent of 8th graders scoring nearing proficient or novice in math on the March 2007 CRT had five or more unexcused absences.

Montana GEAR UP Schools



Montana GEAR UP believes that postsecondary education is possible for all Montana students, regardless of economic background, and strives to empower them to realize that ambition. Montana GEAR UP brings this message to middle and high schools, students, their parents, and their community.

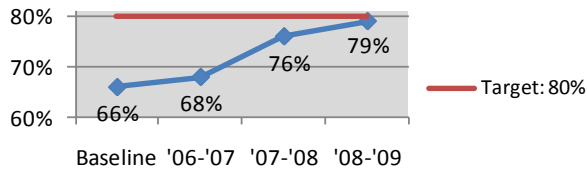
- Montana GEAR UP mission statement



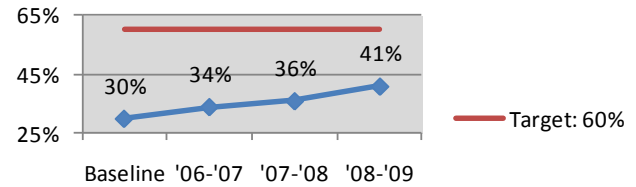
MONTANA GEAR UP PROGRESS ON GOALS

GOAL 1: To establish the importance of postsecondary education throughout the GEAR UP demonstration program and provide early college and career awareness activities.

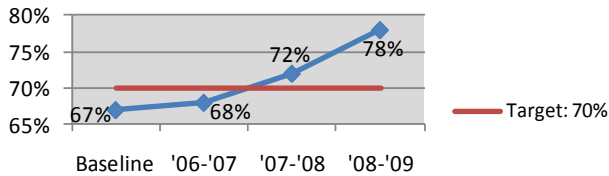
Students who have been spoken to about college entrance requirements by someone at their school



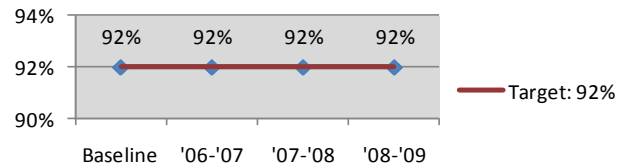
Parents who have been spoken to about college entrance requirements by someone at their child's school



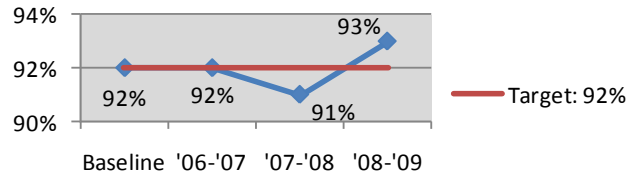
Educators who expect that most of their students will achieve some college education or more



Students who expect to obtain some college education or more

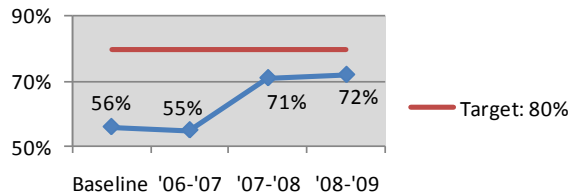


Parents who expect their children to obtain some college education or more

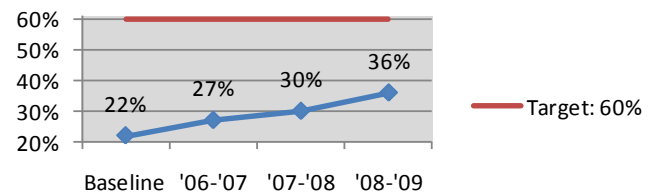


GOAL 2: To provide financial aid awareness, planning, and scholarships to GEAR UP students.

Students who have been spoken to about the availability of financial aid to help pay for college by someone at their school

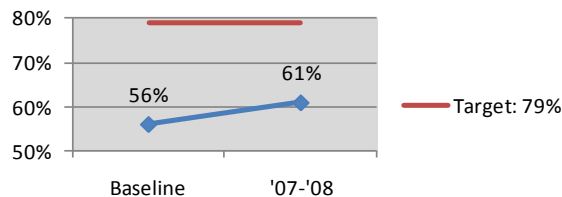


Parents who have been spoken to about the availability of financial aid to help pay for college by someone at their child's school



GOAL 3: To provide GEAR UP schools with the tools necessary to strengthen academic rigor and support in order to improve student opportunities and enrichment.

8th grade students scoring proficient or above in reading on the Montana Criterion-Referenced Test



8th grade students scoring proficient or above in math on the Montana Criterion-Referenced Test

