



THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT & GEARS DATA ENTRY

What is the Annual Performance Report (APR)?

Every spring as part of the requirement of our grant, we must submit the APR to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The APR serves two purposes for DOE.

- In return for granting the state the funds to operate GEAR UP, DOE requires the collection and reporting of the student performance data and the student and parent activity data so that we can demonstrate and document the use of funds and the progress of the program.
- As required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the APR is also used to collect data addressing the performance of the GEAR UP program at the national level.

If we do not report this data to the government on a yearly basis, there will be no Montana GEAR UP!

What data is gathered in the APR?

The Report presents information on our program in four areas:

Programmatic

- Current status of Montana GEAR UP
- How Montana GEAR UP is furthering the mission of the GEAR UP program
- Successful aspects of the program
- Barriers or problems encountered
- How project activities and outcomes are likely to be sustained over time
- Systemic changes that have occurred in schools
- Progress made towards accomplishing project objectives
- Expenditures and matching contributions.

Demographic Data & Services Data

- Number of students served
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- LEP
- IEP
- Services provided to students, parents, teachers, and schools.

Student Outcome Data

- Enrollment in advanced courses: English, Science & Math
- Cumulative course completion: Introductory Math, Integrated Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Introductory Science/Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, AP Coursework
- Educational progress of students: performance at or above grade level in English/Language Arts, Math, & Science; unexcused absences; SAT/ACT test taking.

Parent and Student Survey Data

- College entrance requirements and financial aid
- Educational expectations
- Perceptions of affordability
- Parents who have spoken with their children about college.

What does the APR have to do with me?

We rely on you for much of the data that we report in the APR!

- Surveys! – The data from the student and parent surveys are tabulated and reported.
- GEARS! – The activity and student performance data that you enter into GEARS is aggregated and reported in the APR!
- Implementation plans & site visits! – Implementation plans and site visits are used to support the narrative portions of the APR.

Oops! I forgot to enter an activity (or a student or a grade) – who cares?

We all care. This is our chance to shine for DOE and show them what an awesome program we have, e.g., all the various GEAR UP-related activities that we've undertaken, how hard our schools and students are working. Unfortunately, we only look as good as the data we report. If we report mediocre and incomplete data, then that is how our program will be perceived. Also Montana is not working in a vacuum. DOE will use Montana GEAR UP's APR in combination with all the other state and partnership APRs to show Congress what a difference the program is making and why it should continue to receive funding.

It's also a chance to shine for ourselves. Our outside evaluators, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, will use the APR data in addition to the survey data and implementation plans to examine what activities, programs, and services seem to have the greatest effect on our students – what works and what does not, and what best practices and lessons learned can be applied to other GEAR UP schools and ultimately statewide.

How will the APR be useful to me?

Every school will receive a summary of the APR data and much of the data that you report will also be used by our evaluators for completing the reports of GEAR UP schools and the state program.

Okay, so what are my deadlines?

- February 27 – GEARS performance data entry due and activities must be current
- March 31 – Activity data must be current
- April 15 – APR due