Postsecondary Preparation

1,600+ Students took the PSAT 10

53 Students took the SAT or ACT

1,200+ Students and parents were provided with additional academic advising and planning

Many [students] are beginning to respond with enthusiasm when discussing their higher education goals. Higher education is now being viewed as an obtainable goal by both students and parents.

~ GUV Coordinator, Sussex Central High School

College Trips (2014-18)

2,327 Students Visited a College Campus

62% of cohort

47 Colleges & Universities Visited

** Virginia Institutions

4-Year Public Institutions**

13

Private Institutions**

17

Out-of-State institutions

7

Historically Black Colleges & Universities (in- and out-of-state)

7

2-Year & Community Colleges**

10

Participating School Divisions

Charlotte County

Charlottesville City

Covington City

Danville City

Dinwiddie County

Fredericksburg City

Harrisonburg City

King & Queen County

Lynchburg City

Newport News City

Petersburg City

Roanoke City

Suffolk County

Sussex County

Westmoreland County

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

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GEAR UP Virginia

2017-18 Year In Review

Randolph-Henry High School

Featured left to right are: Savonta Clark, Joshua Gibson, Kaylei Jones (School Counselor and GEAR UP Coordinator), Zeonna Haskins and Alexis Wilson.
2017-18 GEAR UP Virginia

Year In Review

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a national college access initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of this program is to increase significantly the number of students in disadvantaged communities who are prepared for, pursue and succeed in postsecondary education, whether that is a bachelor’s degree, associate degree or qualified certification.

Administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) GEAR UP Virginia (GUV) began in the 2014-15 academic year with a cohort of over 4600 seventh-grade students in 15 school divisions throughout the Commonwealth. During 2017-18, the fourth year of the grant, GEAR UP Virginia partnered with 24 high schools in these school divisions to provide program and equipment funding, professional development for educators, collaboration opportunities, scholarships and myriad other services.

Cohort Snapshot

- 3,763 students
- 15 school divisions
- 24 high schools
- 931 educators participated in professional development (2,650+ hours)
- 547 parents/guardians participated in GUV activities
- 20 high school seniors experiencing homelessness were served (100% graduation rate)
- 4,500+ non-GUV students were provided services

Achieving Objectives

1. Academic Achievement

- At/above grade level in English
  - GEAR UP Virginia: 93%
  - Virginia Total*: 84%
  - Virginia Economically Disadvantaged*: 72%

- At/above grade level in Math
  - GEAR UP Virginia: 93%
  - Virginia Total*: 78%
  - Virginia Economically Disadvantaged*: 65%

- Students chronically absent
  - GEAR UP Virginia: 7%
  - Virginia Total*: 11%
  - Virginia Economically Disadvantaged*: 17%

Participants are encouraged strongly to reach for the highest goal possible by enrolling in rigorous classes such as honors, AP, Dual enrollment, and (IB) International Baccalaureate classes.

- GUV Coordinator
  - Denbigh High School, Newport News

2. Student Support

- 92% promoted to the next grade
- 869 passed one or more AP, IB, or dual enrollment classes

- 54% Black or African American
- 31% White
- 10% Hispanic or Latino
- 3% Two or More Races
- 2% Asian
- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native
- <1% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

- 63% are eligible for free/reduced lunch (based on school-wide numbers)
- 13% have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- 6% are English learners

Partnersing Organizations

Virginia Department of Education, Virginia 529, Project HOPE, Virginia Latino Higher Education Network, Educational Credit Management Corporation, George Mason University, Norfolk State University, University of Richmond, Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, Virginia Space Grant Consortium, CoolSpeak, Southside Health Education Foundation, Student Success Agency, Xcaliber and The Princeton Review