

## **GEAR UP – Assessment**

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**Assessment** of the GEARUP Program at The Evergreen State College is documented in the Annual Performance Report (APR). The APR is used by the Department of Education to determine whether substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives of the project as outlined in our grant application and work plan for each annual reporting period. 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 on a national level. Annual submission of the APR is a requirement of our grant and is used to determine continuation funding.

**The Evaluation Plan** is implemented by Research, Grants and Information (RGI) Research Corporation. They function as our independent evaluators. They use a web-based data collection system that maintains student participation data, services provided, achievement data and monthly narrative reports. They have developed a training manual and trained all the GEAR UP staff on how to use the web-based reporting system. RGI facilitates the administration of student and parent surveys and analyzes this data each year. They collect and analyze student field trip surveys to provide feedback to stakeholders regarding the quality of GEAR UP college visits and other off-site activities.

RGI has established all applicable baseline benchmarks and measures annual achievement data to these benchmarks. They provide an ongoing review of data, information and findings to administrators, the Partner Board, and at regularly scheduled GEAR UP Staff meetings as part of the formative evaluation process. Each year they deliver a comprehensive End-of-Year Independent Evaluation Report that provides data for each school site as well as collectively for the entire program.

RGI was selected as external evaluators for this program as they have extensive experience in evaluating federal and state educational projects for universities and school districts including GEAR UP and 21st Century Programs. They attend all the national GEAR UP conferences/ workshops to stay current on all GEAR UP evaluation reporting requirements. RGI Corporation was selected since they are located in Washington State and understand the needs and challenges of the students we serve. They are a Washington State Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) specializing in evaluation services for projects serving minority and under-represented populations.

Each of the four objectives of the grant is itemized into specific actions or criteria that support that objective and are considered outcomes. Each outcome is identified with the objective number and the number of the planned outcome. For example:

<b>Objectives:</b> List the approved objectives from your grant application or work plan. Where applicable, provide baseline data.	<b>Activities:</b> List the activities that have been conducted to meet the objective.	<b>Results:</b> Has the objective been met? If not, what progress have you made in reaching the objective?	<b>Actions required:</b> Are you planning to make changes to the grant in response to the results?
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1. Outcome 1.1A. Increase the percentage of students meeting the math standard on the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade WASL.	Tutoring/ homework assistance, computer assisted lab instruction, counseling/ academic planning, family events, professional development for teachers.			Increase academic activities focused on mathematics.
		Indicator	6 <sup>th</sup> grade math WASL	
		Baseline year	2008	
		Baseline measure	25.4%	
		Comparison measure year	2009	
		Comparison measure	21.8%	
		Net change	-3.6%	
		% change of baseline	-14.2%	
		Outcome met/ not met	NOT MET	

At this time the Grant has twenty seven (27) outcomes that are measured and reported to RGI. The database that sustains this process is maintained monthly with each Educational Specialist completing their data entry by the end of each month. Monthly data is collected at the end of each reporting year and forms the basis for the Annual Performance Report.