

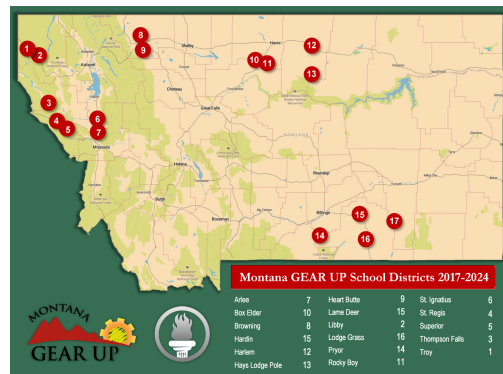


## Montana GEAR UP BOR Facts Sheet

GEAR UP is a federally funded grant which supports schools, students, and their families to increase students' college and career readiness through academic preparedness, postsecondary planning, and financial aid knowledge so that they may succeed in their education beyond high school. OCHE received its first grant in 1999 and has been a member of the GEAR UP community ever since. The program is funded at \$3.5 million for the current fiscal year and is in its fifth year of a seven-year, \$24.5 million grant (2017-2024).

GEAR UP services 19 target schools in 17 districts across Montana. 2017 grant school districts include: Arlee, Box Elder, Browning, Hardin, Harlem, Hays/Lodge Pole, Heart Butte, Lame Deer, Libby, Lodge Grass, Pryor, Rocky Boy, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior, Thompson Falls, Troy. Each year, GEAR UP serves on average 5,500 students grades 7-12 from these schools, as well as, monitors and provides services to students enrolled in their first year of college.

**GEAR UP GOAL 1** - Improve academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education.  
**GEAR UP GOAL 2** - Increase high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates.  
**GEAR UP GOAL 3** - Increase students' and families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.



**Example of services to meet Goal 1:** Pre-Algebra by end of grade 8; Algebra I by end of grade 9; AP & dual enrollment; professional development for math coaches & culturally relevant curriculum training; STEAM guided instruction; academic summer programs; academic assessments (Pre-ACT grades 8 and 10, Mosaic 7, 9, and 12; ACT grade 11).

**Example of services to meet Goal 2:** Tutoring, remediation, and dropout prevention; credit recovery models; College Access Arc of Events (college apps, FAFSA, college enrollment decision day); transition services for grades 7 & 9; virtual mentoring; annual student leadership training; trauma-informed instructional training.

**Example of services to meet Goal 3:** Summer programs; financial aid resources & FAFSA nights; academic advising; college visits; college & career fairs; culturally-themed community events & initiatives; college student panels; distance-learning infrastructure.

### State Initiatives:

- ACT - GEAR UP funds pay for the ACT exam for all juniors in the state.
- Support of 1, 2, Free - for students across Montana
- First Year Service Grants - In an effort to improve retention rates of FY students on campus, GEAR UP has awarded grants totaling \$424,217 to support students at these post secondary institutions: Flathead Valley Community College, Montana State University & Gallatin College, Montana State University Billings & City College, University of Montana & Missoula College, and Salish Kootenai College.

### GEAR UP State Staff Include

Travis Anderson | Director | 1.0 FTE  
 Sam Garetson | Program Manager | 1.0 FTE  
 Maria Lillrose | Sr. College Access Manager | 0.5 FTE  
 Maureen Bjerke | Data Analysis & Assessment Manager | 1.0 FTE

Kyra Kronberg, Communication and Operations Manager | 1.0 FTE  
 To Be Filled | College Access Manager | 0.5 FTE  
 Kelly Hert | Federal Accountant | 0.45 FTE  
 Karen Wilson | School Grants Manager | 1.0 FTE