



## **GEAR UP Kentucky 4: Spotlights on School Success**

### **Augusta Independent School, Augusta, KY**

Augusta Independent School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2021 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The percentage of students completing the FAFSA climbed from 50% in 2022 to 89% in 2024, exceeding state and national rates by at least 25 percentage points each year.
- 79% of seniors applied for college since 2022.
- 153 students received more than 2,727 hours of advising.
- GEAR UP Kentucky funding provided 24 visits to college campuses or job site tours for nearly 100 students.
- Augusta Independent School earned statewide recognition for their outstanding FAFSA completion rate in 2024 of 79%, the highest rate among GEAR UP Kentucky schools.
- As of April 2025, Augusta Independent leads all GEAR UP Kentucky schools in FAFSA completion, with a 63% rate—well above the state average of 46% and the national average of 47%.Bath County High School

### **Bath County High School, Owingsville, KY**

Bath County High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- FAFSA completion rates of BCHS graduating classes have surpassed state and national rates every year since 2019.
- The percentage of BCHS seniors applying for college increased from 43% in 2021 to 73% in 2024.
- 1,109 students received more than 8,039 hours of advising.
- GEAR UP Kentucky funding provided opportunities for 301 students to participate in 17 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.

### **Bourbon County High School, Paris, KY**

Bourbon County High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- FAFSA completion rates of BCHS graduating classes have surpassed state and national rates every year since 2021, climbing from 47% in 2021 to 56% in 2024.
- The percentage of BCHS seniors applying for college increased 38 percentage points in 5 years (40% to 78%).
- 1,231 students received more than 14,700 hours of advising
- GEAR UP Kentucky funding has provided opportunities for 512 students to participate in 28 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.
- Bourbon County High School had the largest total number of FAFSA applications for the GEAR UP schools, during 2023-24, with 103 completions.

### **Fleming County High School, Flemingsburg, KY**

Fleming County High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The FAFSA completion rate of FCHS seniors has surpassed state and national rates every year since 2019, with the largest gain in the Class of 2024 topping the statewide rate by 14 percentage points (61% v. 47%)
- The percentage of FCHS seniors applying for college skyrocketed from 59% in 2020 to 91% in 2024.
- 1,181 students received more than 7,500 hours of advising.
- GEAR UP Kentucky funding has provided opportunities for 527 students to participate in 30 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.
- Fleming County High School currently has the highest number of seniors (162) completing a college application this year, an 88% college application rate.

### **Frankfort High School, Frankfort, KY**

Frankfort High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The percentage of graduates enrolling in college increased 10 percentage points (59% to 69%) and exceeded Kentucky's statewide college-going rate every year by at least 17 percentage points.
- 83% of seniors have completed a FAFSA since 2019, with school FAFSA completion rates exceeding statewide and national rates by at least 16 percentage points each year.
- 78% of seniors applied to college since 2019.
- 530 students received more than 5,303 hours of advising and more than 300 students participated in 31 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.

### **Holmes High School, Covington, KY**

Holmes High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and expanded opportunities for students to learn about options for their next steps after high school, including:

- 1,516 students received more than 3,700 hours of advising.
- GEAR UP Kentucky has provided 17 opportunities for students to participate in college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.

## **Marion County High School, Lebanon, KY**

Marion County High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- College-going rates of MCHS graduates have exceeded the statewide college-going rate by at least 3 percentage points since 2019.
- 71% of MCHS seniors completed a FAFSA, exceeding statewide and national rates every year since 2019 by at least 11 percentage points
- The percentage of seniors applying for college skyrocketed from 51% in 2020 to 82% in 2024.
- 1,631 students received more than 9,500 hours of advising and 296 students participated in 13 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.

## **Mason County High School, Maysville, KY**

Mason County High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2019 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The college-going rate of MCHS graduates exceeded the statewide college-going rate by at least 5 percentage points every year.
- The FAFSA completion rate of MCHS seniors exceeded statewide and national completion rates by at least 6 percentage points every year.
- 1,224 students received more than 6,264 hours of advising and 298 students participated in 19 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.
- Mason County High School currently has a 45 percentage point increase from 2023-2024 in college applications, 181 seniors (79%) in the Class of 2025 have completed at least one college application.

## **Mercer County High School, Harrodsburg, KY**

Mercer County Senior High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- 66% of seniors completed a FAFSA, with school FAFSA completion rates surpassing statewide and national rates by at least 5 percentage points every year since 2019.
- Since 2021, the percentage of seniors completing a college application increased from 40% to 75%.
- 1,361 students received more than 13,612 hours of advising, and 411 students participated in 26 college visits and/or job-industry tours.

## **Paris High School, Paris, KY**

Paris High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The FAFSA completion rate of PHS seniors skyrocketed from 48% in 2019 to 75% in 2024, exceeding statewide completion rates every year since 2020.
- The percentage of PHS seniors completing a college application increased 44 percentage points since 2022.
- 397 students received more than 8,224 hours of advising and 286 students participated in 22 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.
- Paris High School currently has the highest percentage of college application completions among GEAR UP Kentucky schools, with 89% of seniors in the Class of 2025 completing at least one college application.

## **Pendleton County High School, Falmouth, KY**

Pendleton County High School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The percentage of PCHS seniors applying for college increased 22 percentage points since 2021.
- 1,164 students received more than 3,342 hours of advising.
- Students engaged in more than 400 hours of student leadership programs such as peer mentoring and peer tutoring, and received nearly 6,000 hours of instruction in financial, academic, social and emotional skills.

## **Robertson County School, Mt. Olivet, KY**

Robertson County School has been a GEAR UP Kentucky partner since 2018 and has seen significant gains throughout the grant cycle, including:

- The college-going rate of RCS graduates has increased 6 percentage points since 2018, exceeding the statewide college going rate by at least 3 percentage points since 2019.
- FAFSA completion rates of RCS seniors have surpassed statewide and national completion rates by at least 9 percentage points since 2020.
- 73% of RHS seniors have applied to college since 2020.
- 260 students received more than 3,102 hours of advising.
- GEAR UP Kentucky has provided opportunities for 183 students to participate in 32 college campus visits and/or job-industry tours.