

# Examining Relationships Between Service Activities and Student Success Outcomes

CCREC conducted a longitudinal, multi-state evaluation examining relationships between GEAR UP service activities and three key outcomes: FAFSA completion, high school graduation, and postsecondary enrollment. GEAR UP is a discretionary grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education designed to increase the number of students from low-income schools who are prepared for, enroll in, and succeed in postsecondary education.

#### **About CCREC**

Established in 2010, CCREC is a grantee-led initiative to conduct an evaluation of GEAR UP. The founding 13-member grants established the infrastructure to conduct a longitudinal, multigrant, collaborative evaluation.

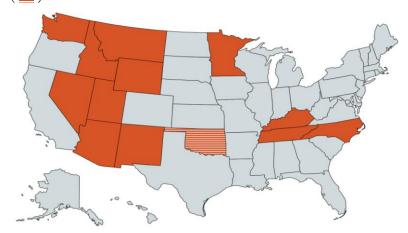
#### **CCREC Partners**







Among the 13 founding members, 12 contributed data and 1 member ( ) was unable to contribute data to the service evaluation.



### Summary of Results

The tables below summarize statistically significant relationships between service categories and FAFSA completion, high school graduation, and postsecondary enrollment across three student samples. An arrow pointing up (↑) indicates positive relationships across all three samples, an arrow pointing down (↓) indicates negative relationships, and the absence of an arrow indicates mixed results across the three samples. For more information about the service categories, visit <a href="https://www.edpartnerships.org/ccrec">https://www.edpartnerships.org/ccrec</a>.

	FAFSA Completion	High School Graduation	Postsecondary Enrollment
Student Services	\$		
Comprehensive Mentoring	<b>^</b>	<b>^</b>	<b>^</b>
Financial Aid Counseling	<b>^</b>		<b>^</b>
Counseling/Advising			<b>^</b>
Campus Visits	<b>^</b>		
Job Site Visits	<b>^</b>	<b>^</b>	<b>\</b>
Summer Programs	<b>^</b>		<b>^</b>
Workshops	<b>^</b>		<b>\</b>
Tutoring	<b>\</b>		<b>\</b>
Educational Field Trips		<b>\</b>	
Family Services	\$		
Campus Visits	<b>V</b>		
Counseling/Advising		<b>^</b>	
Financial Aid Workshops	<b>^</b>	<b>^</b>	<b>^</b>
Events	<b>^</b>		<b>^</b>

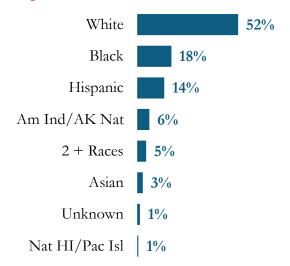
# Samples

The evaluation centered on three samples of students from CCREC grants.

- Full Sample: Enrolled in GEAR UP at any time between 7th and 12th grade
- 4-Year Sample: Enrolled in GEAR UP continuously between 9th and 12th grade
- 6-Year Sample: Enrolled in GEAR UP continuously between 7th and 12th grade

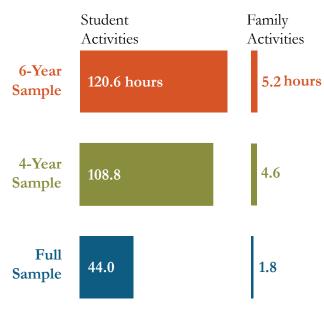
# Student Demographics

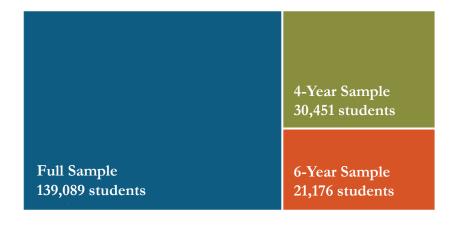
The figure below represents students in the **full** sample; values for the 4-year sample and 6-year sample are similar.



# **GEAR UP Activities by Sample**

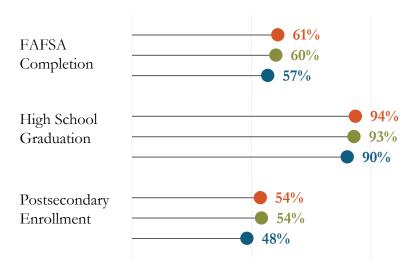
Students from the 6-year sample had the highest average service activities for all activities.





## **Descriptive Outcomes**

Students in the 6-year sample outperformed students in the 4-year sample and full sample on FAFSA completion and high school graduation.



## **Key Findings Across the Samples**

- Financial Aid Counseling was the strongest predictor across all three outcomes.
- Comprehensive Mentoring had a positive relationship across all three outcomes for all samples.
- Comprehensive Mentoring, Financial Aid Counseling, Counseling/Advising, and Summer Programs had positive relationships with postsecondary enrollment across all samples.
- Tutoring/Homework Assistance, while negatively associated with FAFSA completion and postsecondary enrollment, remains a vital GEAR UP service for further examination.
- FAFSA completion rates were about five percentage points higher than the national average.
- Postsecondary enrollment rates were aligned with national postsecondary outcomes.

Future reporting will examine the relationships between service activities and postsecondary persistence and completion.





