Introduction to GEAR UP Evaluation



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Overview

Importance of Program Evaluation (Why?)

- Ensure effective processes
- Monitor progress toward goals
- Demonstrate impact

Evaluation Methodology (How?)

- It starts with a logic model
- Data collection
- Evaluation design to examine impact
- Surveys
- ED-mandated GPRA indicators
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities
- Negotiating relationships





Ensure Effective Processes

- Accountability: ED compliance
- Evaluation of staffing, operations, service coverage, etc.
- Function of Annual Performance Report





Monitor Progress Toward Goals (Formative Assessment)

- Identify effective/ineffective elements
- Continuous program improvement
- Annual & biennial evaluations





Demonstrate Impact (Summative Assessment)

- Goal attainment
- Unanticipated effects
- Vital for NCCEP advocacy of GEAR UP





Overall GEAR UP Goals

Raise Postsecondary Participation

Strengthen Academic
Preparation & Achievement

Increase Postsecondary
Awareness & Aspirations





It Starts with a Logic Model

- Theory of change
- Identify effective/ineffective elements
- Continuous program improvement
- Annual & biennial evaluations



With these We will address By providing To improve these services these challenges resources these outcomes (Need) (Inputs) (Activities) (Objectives) Academic: Academic: Academic: Program staff Acad planning Math course success Low STEM proficiency Low English proficiency Remediation ELA course success State resources Retesting Stand, test scores Poor course outcomes Tutoring^{2a} Stay on track Federal resources High HS dropout rates Advising Graduation rates No computer sci. courses Partner colleges Prof development AP/dual credit courses District partners Motivational: Motivational: Motivational: Community partners Lack of IHE knowledge Mentoring* IHE expectations Lack of career planning Local businesses **IHE** visits Career interests IHE identity/fit Little college-going culture Career info ACT/College Board Internships 1b IHE test-taking IHE benefits unclear Local initiatives Family sessions Quality evidence Process: Process: Process: Financial aid needs Application help FAFSA completion Ongoing evaluation High summer melt Finance info⁴ IHE enrollment

And achieve these goals

Academic: Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary

education for GEAR UP students.

Low college persistence

Motivational: Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary

Individual support

IHE persistence

education options, preparation, and financing.

Process: Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary

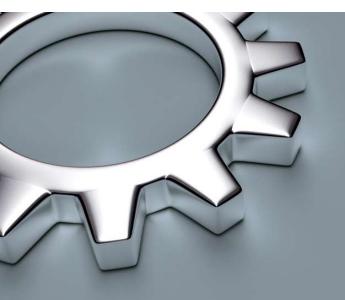
education for GEAR UP students.

- 1b. Work-based learning experiences for in-demand careers
- 2a. Supporting mastery of key prerequisites for success in STEM fields
- 4. Supporting financial literacy

Sample Logic Model



Demonstrates a rationale and provides promising evidence. (Include citations in this footnote)
 Addresses Absolute Priority Categories:



Data Collection (minimum)

- Year-round
- Inputs:
 - Service participation data
 - For students, parents, & staff
- Outcomes:
 - Student academic achievement data
 - Student and parent surveys (depending on grant objectives)





Evaluation Design to Examine Impact

- Quasi-experimental evaluation
- Comparative change model
 - Student and course-level data
 - Baseline data
 - Comparison groups
- Dosage effects
- Multiple outcome measures

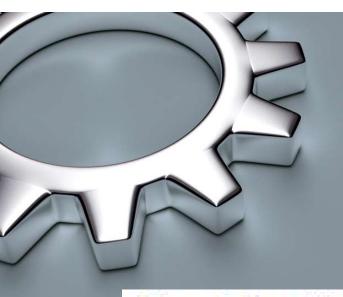




Surveys

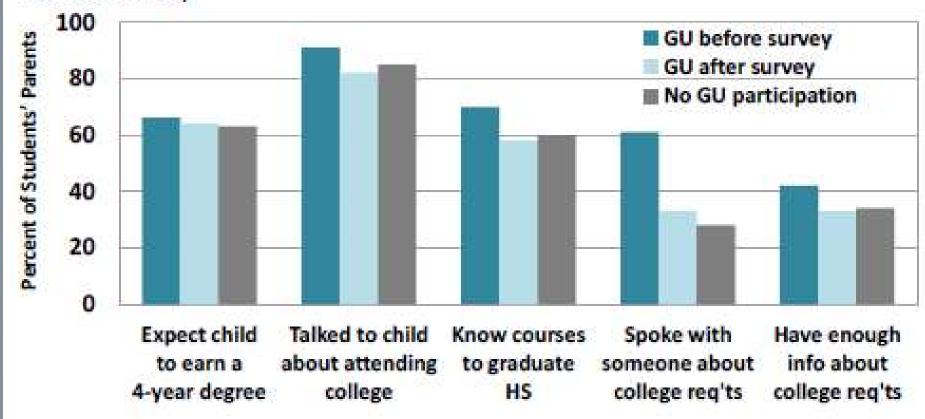
- Students, parents, & staff
- No more mandated APR items. Just focus on those useful to grant
- Survey processing/data entry
- Interpreting (and using) results





Survey Analysis Example

Figure 3. Parent knowledge of college by GEAR UP participation timeframe, 2012-13 survey





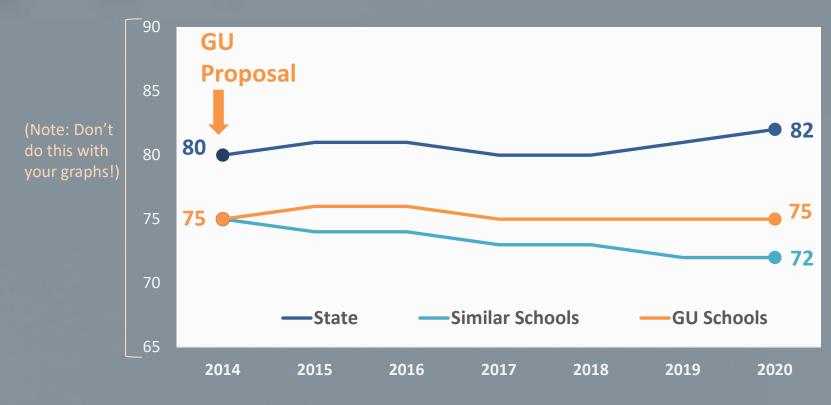
ED-Mandated Government Performance & Results Act (GPRA) Indicators

- Ten indicators phrased as "The % of GEAR UP students who..."
- Address academic achievement, HS graduation, college enrollment & progress, knowledge of financial aid and college benefits, parent engagement.
- Designed to track progress toward achieving program goals.



Outcome Example

HS Graduation Rates







Clarify Roles & Responsibilities

- Define tasks & end products
- Identify data sources
- Determine responsible party
 - evaluator
 - program administrators/staff
 - school/district staff
- Develop data collection timeline
- Document and disseminate the plan



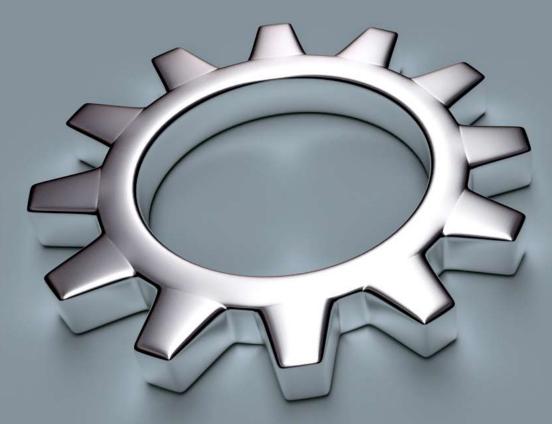


Negotiating Relationships

- Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
 - FERPA defined
 - Implications for data collection
- Institutional Review Boards
 - IRB Regulations
 - Implications for data collection
- Data confidentiality agreements
- National Student Clearinghouse
 - StudentTracker



Questions?



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