



COBRO
CONSULTING

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Continuous Program Improvement Through Technology & Data

GEAR UP West Conference 2010

Continuous Program Improvement Through Technology & Data

Overview

- Evaluation Partners
 - GEAR UP Idaho
 - CoBro Consulting
- Primary Evaluation Responsibilities
 - Coordination of data collection & data management
 - Department of Education mandated reports
 - Survey design, data analysis & results reporting
- Data Collection / Evaluation Challenges & Solutions
- Using Outcomes to Guide Program Improvement (Data-driven decision making)



Evaluation Partners

GEAR UP Idaho

- Statewide Program
- Award Period: July 2006-July 2012
- Total Award: \$17.7 Million
 - \$2.96M Annually
 - \$1.52M Scholarships
 - \$1.3M Operating Budget
- Cohort Student Model
 - Three cohorts
 - Currently 9th, 10th, & 11th graders
- 6,581 Students Served To-Date

Evaluation Partners

GEAR UP Idaho

Our Goals:

- Improve academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education within the GEAR UP cohort classes.
- Increase rate of high school graduation and post-secondary preparation.
- Increase educational expectations of participants. Increase student and family knowledge of post-secondary options, preparation and financing.

Evaluation Partners

GEAR UP Idaho

Idaho Program Staff:

- Statewide Program Manager
- 2 Regional Coordinators
- 20 Site Coordinators
- GEAR UP Site Teams (administrators, counselors, teachers, parents)
- Tutors

Evaluation Partners

GEAR UP Idaho

Services Provided:

(schools design their own program)

- Tutoring/Mentoring
- Dependable Strengths
- EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT
- College Visits
- Service Learning
- Financial Aid Education
- College/Career Exploration
- Dual Credit/IDLA
- eCIS
- Family Education and Events
- Job Shadowing

Evaluation Partners

CoBro Consulting

- Program evaluation systems & services
- Based in San Diego, CA
- Specializing in:
 - Online student tracking/ grant mgt. systems
 - Coordination of large-scale data collection
 - Survey services
 - Data analysis (quantitative and qualitative)
 - Results reporting (e.g., DOE biennial report)

Evaluation Partners

CoBro Consulting

Current GEAR UP Clients include:

- Bellflower GEAR UP, CA
- Wenatchee GEAR UP, WA
- GEAR UP Project Lasso, CA
- Amarillo College GEAR UP, TX
- Palomar College GEAR UP, CA
- Utah's Statewide GEAR UP, UT
- GEAR UP Idaho State Program, ID
- Oklahoma Statewide GEAR UP, OK
- Eastern Arizona College GEAR UP, AZ
- Tennessee GEAR UP State Program, TN
- Rural Northern New Mexico GEAR UP, NM
- Kenai Peninsula Project Grad GEAR UP, AK
- Long Beach Unified School District GEAR UP, CA
- CUNY Middle Grades Initiative, GEAR UP, NY
- Anaheim GEAR UP, CA
- LAUSD GEAR UP, CA
- Pasadena GEAR UP, TX
- Tucson GEAR UP, AZ
- Roosevelt GEAR UP, OR
- Salinas GEAR UP, CA
- East Bay GEAR UP, CA

Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

Coordination of Data Collection & Data Management

- Requires year-round data collection
- Service participation data
 - for each student, parent, and staff
 - by service type
- Course-level academic data
- The COMPASS system...



Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

Department of Education Mandated Reports

- Annual Performance Report
 - Service, academic, & survey data
 - Focused on data tabulations
 - Narrative evaluation-related sections
- Biennial evaluation & report
 - Due every-other December
 - Focused on progress towards program objectives (see APR table in Section II, 7)

Primary Evaluation Responsibilities

GEAR UP Surveys

- Form design & development
 - Students & parents
 - Additional items beyond APR-mandated
- Administration
 - Paper-based and online
 - Students: on campus; Parents: various methods
- Automated data processing
- Survey data analysis & results reporting
 - For APR & biennial evaluation
 - Ad hoc reporting

Data Collection / Evaluation Challenges & Solutions

Challenges

- Survey response rates (especially for parents)
- Obtaining academic data from schools/districts
- Time-consuming program services data entry
- Data accuracy & integrity
- Determining service coverage and progress toward goals
- Early identification of *off-track* students.
- Ensuring programmatic decisions are data-driven



Data Collection / Evaluation Challenges & Solutions

Solutions

- Increasing survey response rates
 - Multi-mode option
 - Extended administration timeframe
- Obtaining timely academic data
 - Coordinated by CoBro technicians
 - Use of data record layout & data submission calendar
- Ensuring data entry, accuracy & integrity
 - Compass screens expedite entry
 - System verification features ensure integrity & accuracy



Data Collection / Evaluation Challenges & Solutions

Solutions

- Monitoring service coverage & progress toward goals
 - Compass attendance & outcomes reports
- Early identification of *off-track* students
 - *New* Compass Early Alert module
 - Incorporates factors predictive of student high school drop-outs as early as 6th grade
 - Based on recent research findings
- Ensuring programmatic decisions are data-driven

Using Outcomes to Guide Program Improvement (data-driven decision making)

- Need trust & buy-in from administrators
- Interpretation of findings
 - Consider alternative explanations
 - View as opportunity to inform program processes
- Identify side effects and side impacts of program
- Convey findings through concise narrative & simple graphics
- Timely results reports are strong incentive for stakeholders, program staff, & participants

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Questions?

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