



# SC GEAR UP PROGRAM

## EXECUTIVE — QUICK SUMMARY - YEARS 1-6

This summary report presents information about the SC GEAR UP Program at the end of Year 6. Progress/completion of the three overarching objectives of the program is presented using outcome data from student records, surveys and service participation.

Served

**Table 1. Number of Students**

2011-12	3673
2012-13	3808
2013-14	3777
2014-15	3605
2015-16	3114
2016-17	3007

### Introduction

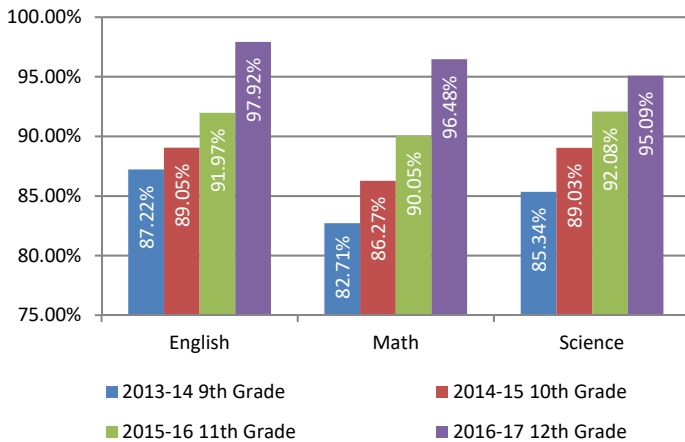
Since its beginning in October 2011, the SC GEAR UP Program has provided services to cohort students in 15 school districts and 46 schools in suburban and rural areas along the I-95 corridor. Core services include tutoring, academic planning/counseling, workshops and summer programs on college admissions and financial aid and college visits. Table 1 presents the number of students served during Years 1-6.

### Objective 1: Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students

Figure 1 illustrates the passing rate of SCGU students in English, math, and science courses for Years 3-6. There was an increase in the passing rates as the students moved through high school even as they progressed through more rigorous curricula.

Figure 2 illustrates the percent of students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Again the percent rose as the cohort progressed through high school reflecting that the SCGU students were making progress toward preparation for postsecondary entrance. This figure also shows that the SCGU cohort was performing higher than the control group.

**Figure 1. SC GEAR UP Course Success Rates**



**Figure 2. SC GEAR UP AND CONTROL GROUP -- GPA 3.0 OR HIGHER**

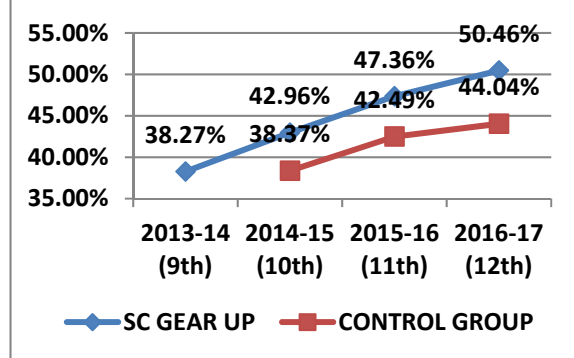


Table 2 lists the number of SCGU students enrolled and passing dual credit courses (English, math, science and social sciences) in Year 5 and Year 6. A total of 534 students earned credits in 1 or more dual credit courses.

**Table 2. SCGU Dual Course Participation Years 5 & 6**

Courses	Year 5			Year 6		
	Enrollments	# Passing	% Passing	Enrollments	Passing	% Passing
English	236	226	95.76%	289	278	96.19%
Math	82	76	92.68%	57	56	98.25%
Science	28	27	96.43%	30	30	100%
History/Social Sciences	485	459	94.64%	390	383	98.21%

Ninety-three (93) SCGU students have successfully passed 1 or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses. Students participating in SCGU activities have demonstrated their academic preparation for college curricula by succeeding in core college preparation courses, advanced courses and dual credit courses.

**Objective 2: Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students**

**Table 3. Three Year Graduation Rates of SC GEAR UP Schools**

School Name	GRAD RATE 2015 REPORT CARD <sup>4</sup>	GRAD RATE 2016 REPORT CARD	SC GEAR UP 2016-17 GRAD RATE <sup>5</sup>
Battery Creek High	81.00%	80.39%	90.76%
Colleton County High	80.30%	85.19%	92.97%
Estill High	87.00%	77.27%	98.31%
Ridgeland-Hardeeville High	75.40%	80.39%	87.92%
Whale Branch Early College	71.40%	81.74%	98.41%
Creek Bridge High	90.20%	77.78%	95.74%
Darlington High	91.40%	95.14%	90.72%
Lamar High	100.00%	98.28%	100.00%
Lee Central High	87.70%	91.27%	93.92%
Marion High	83.50%	78.80%	89.88%
Mullins High	89.90%	85.27%	98.04%
Wilson High	80.20%	81.86%	85.41%
Dillon High	90.80%	89.91%	98.42%
Military Magnet	82.40%	91.11%	89.47%
Scotts Branch High	93.90%	81.63%	91.11%
St. Johns High	70.40%	56.72%	96.67%
Woodland High	81.60%	85.80%	94.81%
CE Murray High	91.90%	96.67%	92.19%
Edisto High	78.20%	76.60%	93.64%
Hemingway High	88.50%	94.23%	94.05%
Kingstree Senior High	74.80%	76.77%	87.94%
Loris High	81.70%	80.10%	90.91%

Although the final impact of SC GEAR UP on this objective will have to include data from Year 7, student outcomes from the end of Year 6 reflect that SCGU has increased the rate of high school graduation in cohort schools. There is also data to show that participation in postsecondary will increase from previous graduation classes of the cohort school based on activities from Year 6.

Table 3 presents the 3-year graduation rate of SC GEAR UP schools. Only one of the 22 schools had a small decrease in the graduation rate from 2016 to 2017 – 1.64%; however, in that one school the SCGU 2017 rate was higher than the 2015 rate.

Table 4 presents the FAFSA completion rates for SCGU schools. Only 2 of the 22 schools did not increase their FAFSA completion rate. In the other 20 schools FAFSA rates increased from 5.18% to 52.85%.

<sup>4</sup> Graduation rates on Report Cards are calculated on total 12th grade enrollment; self-contained included in calculations.

<sup>5</sup> SC GEARUP graduation rates calculated on students determined to be part of cohort.

**Table 4. FAFSA Completion Rates – SC GEAR UP Schools**

School	June 2015	June 2016	SC GEAR UP Cohort June 2017	School	June 2015	June 2016	SC GEAR UP Cohort June 2017
Battery Creek	37.50%	38.31%	46.59%	Wilson	50.00%	41.41%	53.01%
Colleton	38.55%	41.56%	59.21%	Dillon	28.99%	39.79%	60.96%
Estill	33.93%	39.62%	72.41%	Military Magnet	41.30%	25.53%	78.38%
Ridgeland-Hardeeville	26.47%	35.54%	68.35%	Scotts Branch	60.42%	73.17%	85.71%
Whale Branch	49.48%	48.45%	61.11%	St. Johns	33.96%	30.43%	80.00%
Creek Bridge	36.73%	35.14%	70.21%	Woodland	37.59%	39.44%	44.62%
Darlington	51.24%	51.24%	57.14%	CE Murray	43.66%	38.98%	79.66%
Lamar	47.83%	42.86%	33.93%	Edisto	43.75%	36.08%	67.28%
Lee	33.93%	43.22%	64.34%	Hemingway	42.35%	46.81%	72.15%
Marion	47.17%	45.32%	62.65%	Kingstree	33.91%	44.14%	53.97%
Mullins	40.57%	44.34%	34.00%	Loris	37.02%	31.45%	83.49%

The graduation rates of SCGU schools are significant evidence of meeting the first part of Objective 2. Additionally, the increased FAFSA completion rates indicate there was a major shift to planning for postsecondary attendance. Year 7 data on postsecondary enrollment will provide the final data on this shift to a “college-going” culture.

**Objective 3: Increase GEAR UP students’ and their families’ knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing**

In addition to the FAFSA completion rate, SC GEAR UP’s student and parent survey responses provide the best evidence of the progress SCGU made in developing the “college-going” culture within the cohort schools. Key questions that address the core knowledge of college opportunities and financing and expectations were inquired each year. Table 5 presents the responses for SCGU students and parents for these key indicators.

**Table 5. SC GEAR UP Key Survey Indicator Responses**

Key Survey Indicators	Student		Parent	
	Year 1	Year 6	Year 1	Year 6
Knowledge of college entrance requirements	70%	93%	34%	87%
Knowledge of postsecondary education financing and scholarships	47%	87%	28%	92%
Expectation of postsecondary success	97%	94%	96%	95%

There was significant increase in the percentage of students and parents with knowledge of college entrance requirements and financing options. Expectations for postsecondary success were high even in Year 1. The challenge to SCGU staff was to maintain that level of expectation as students faced the more challenging curricula of high school in preparation for college. The Year 6 responses indicate SCGU was successful in meeting that challenge.

A full summative evaluation is on file which fully documents the successes of SC GEAR UP during Years 1-6.