



Dear Parent:

Fairmont State University is very excited about receiving a \$32 million GEAR UP grant that will bring special programs and benefits to the students at your child's school. We're trying to give more students the skills, encouragement, and preparation needed to be successful in their education.

Your involvement in this program is important to us! Our staff is required to keep track of the effect of GEAR UP on students involved in our activities. We must do this in order to continue to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The federal government requires* that we get your permission in order to collect the following information about your child:

1. attendance record
2. grades/standardized test scores
3. gender, ethnic category, and disability (if applicable)

This information will indicate to the federal agency the degree of success attained by our GEAR UP grant. The level of success will determine whether your child's school will continue to receive funds to support activities such as field trips, tutoring, computer scholarships, and parent-child activities.

We don't need to track your child by name. **Individual student names will not appear on GEAR UP data reports**; however, their information will be reflected in the numbers we report for the six years this grant is in place.

In order for your child to participate in GEAR UP activities, please complete the attached form and return it to your school GEAR UP coordinator immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amie Fazalare". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Amie Fazalare, GEAR UP Director

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO GEAR UP

Yes, I give permission to _____ County Schools to release information to GEAR UP for the duration of the grant regarding my child (children) identified below:

Student's Full Name _____
Current School _____
Current Grade _____ WVEIS/Lunch # _____

Student's Full Name _____
Current School _____
Current Grade _____ WVEIS/Lunch # _____

If you're not sure of your child's WVEIS Lunch number, the school will complete this.

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian signature _____

No, I do not want to release information about my child. I understand that my child **will not be eligible** for GEAR UP participation, benefits, and free gifts (including free computer systems, free tickets to sporting and fine arts activities, field trips which the rest of the class will be attending, and various awards throughout the school year.)

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian signature _____

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN TO YOUR SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY.

Thank you!

GEAR UP Staff

*The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to *organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school*, among others. Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance unless advised otherwise by parents.