

gear up kentucky 2023-24

A Year in the Life

Who We Served
STUDENTS



COLLEGE
1st year

Nearly 60% from low-income households

51% male
49% female

White	77%
Hispanic or Latino	11%
Black or African-American	7%
Two or More Races	5%

508 with IEPs
Individualized Education Plans

32%* First Gen

96%* with Internet access

75% of the GUK Class of 2024 completed college applications
(14% increase over 2023, 24% increase over 2022)

The F.A.C.E.S. of Postsecondary Readiness

The F.A.C.E.S. of Postsecondary Readiness provide the guiding structure upon which all the activities and opportunities GUK provides for students, families and school staff are built. These are:

- Financial
- Academic
- Cultural
- Emotional
- Social

Our Mission

To increase the number of students in low-income Kentucky communities who are ready to successfully transition to and through postsecondary education. We do this by providing services and support to prepare the whole student and equipping their families, institutions, and communities to promote and sustain student success.

Our Vision

Every student prepared for postsecondary success



9 universities & colleges

7 years \$24.5m grant

33 staff members 13 partners

POSTSECONDARY ASPIRATIONS and PERCEPTIONS

85%* plan to enroll in postsecondary education

67%* aspire to earn a associate degree or higher

More than half of the GUK Class of '24 completed dual credit coursework.

Most important factor when choosing college is **COST**, followed by **PROGRAMS** offered. *

The 4 Pillars of Student Success

GUK services are designed to engage, develop and mobilize students' key influencer groups (Pillars) in support of student success.

SELF (student)

FAMILY

INSTITUTION

COMMUNITY

* As indicated by 12th graders responding to pre-senior survey

What We Did

In 12 school districts ...

- Augusta Ind.
- Bath Co.
- Bourbon Co.
- Covington Ind.
- Fleming Co.
- Frankfort Ind.
- Marion Co.
- Mason Co.
- Mercer Co.
- Paris Ind.
- Pendleton Co.
- Robertson Co.

18,606
hours of curriculum provided

16,982
hours of advising provided

2,100
10th and 11th graders completed at least 2 college readiness assessments
58
of these students completed remediation



734
students went on campus visits, for a total of **3,249** hours

(52% increase over 2023.
87% increase over 2022)

366
high school students served as GUK Student Ambassadors



18
high school seniors & college freshmen served on the GUK Student Ambassador Council

& created > 60 videos about their college prep/transition experience

At 7 colleges/universities ...

- Bluegrass, Elizabethtown, Gateway, Maysville Community & Technical Colleges
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Kentucky State University
- Morehead State University
- Northern KY University
- University of Louisville

360 college freshmen participated in **147** hours of coaching

A nearly **30%** increase in freshmen served & a nearly **40%** increase in hours of coaching
over '22-'23

75%
of juniors received 4+ advising sessions, **29 ppt** up over '22-'23

89%
of seniors received 4+ advising sessions, **34 ppt** up over '22-'23



Text Outreach

1,774
12th graders & college freshmen received text messages to help them with postsecondary planning & transition resources

Family Pillar

7,664
family members received **935** hours of advising and support
7,664 family members received **935** hours of advising and support
☺️ texts related to supporting their students

825
family members received **935**
hours of advising and support

Institution Pillar

249
school & district staff participated in **980** hours of GUK-funded PD

179
participants in the GUK Institute for a College-Going Culture

Community Pillar

142,645
statewide placements of TV & radio PSAs



30
rising 11th and 12th graders spent **3** weeks at Northern Kentucky University, earning **3** college credit hours each, at no cost to them

Our FAFSA Story

To help combat the issues caused by the late release of the '24-'25 FAFSA form, GUK staff amped up summer support to include individual student outreach and local open FAFSA office hours.

1/3 of GUK schools exceeded their previous year's FAFSA completion rate.

GUK ended summer '24 with a **53%** FAFSA completion rate

43
family members participated in activities

312
college credit hours earned via GUK Summer Academy since 2022

2 ppt
above Kentucky FAFSA completion rate

3 ppt
above national FAFSA completion rate

Big Wins from '22-'23

- GUK's program-wide average high school graduation rate exceeded the statewide rate for the fifth year in a row.
- In 2023, 50% of GUK high schools increased their college-going rates by at least 2 ppt; 3 increased by at least 18 ppt. 53% of the GUK Class of 2022 enrolled in postsecondary education, a 4 ppt increase over the Class of 2021.

**Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority