



<b>Name of Project:</b>	<b>Wooster High School</b>
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<b>Number of students in FY09:</b>	<b>500</b>

### **Wooster High School (WHS) GEAR UP Abstract**

Wooster High School will continue its work with the GEAR UP program originally started at Vaughn Middle School. This year's cohort are now in the ninth grade. Current demographic data available on Wooster is as follows: 2.4% Native Indian, 9.4% Asian/Pacific Islander, 46.5% Hispanic, 3.5% African American and 38.4% Caucasian. There are 10.5 Limited English Proficiency (LEP), 15% Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 467.76% of the student population is on the Free or Reduced Lunch program.

The Wooster GEAR UP program will provide a continuous system of mentoring, advising and counseling for all GEAR UP students throughout the school year. Because this is the cohort's first year in high school, a great deal of focus will be on learning about different careers, taking field trips to local colleges and educating parents on types of financial aid available for higher education. Importance will be placed on the continued effort to develop, improve and implement an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each student with the help of the GEAR UP counselor and/or one of Wooster's school counselors. To help GEAR UP students who are at risk of failing, Wooster offers "Extended Learning Time" (ELT) focused on enrichment support for all students. ELT offers students support in core subjects and on organizational skills and time management. In addition, if students begin to struggle in a core class, they are assigned to mandatory tutoring Monday through Thursday as needed and have access to *Smarthinking.com* online tutorials. Wooster has a full-time bilingual Parent Involvement Facilitator (PIF) funded through Senate Bill 185, who works with parents on a regular basis to provide workshops and one-on-one counseling about academic planning and financial aid for postsecondary education.