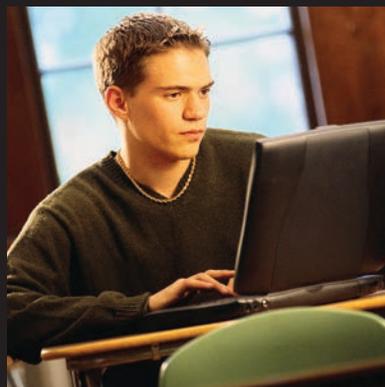




GEAR UP EVALUATION & DATA SERVICES



PROGRAM EVALUATION • SURVEY DESIGN • DATA ANALYSIS
APR & BIENNIAL EVALUATION REPORTS • TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
ONLINE DATA MANAGEMENT & WAREHOUSING • STRATEGIC PLANNING

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EVALUATION & DATA SERVICES

Evaluation Design

EPI provides end-to-end support for GEAR UP staff, from the initial development of research questions and evaluation plans for GEAR UP grant proposals to survey development, data analysis, and reporting of results. We bring extensive experience evaluating federally-funded education programs, including GEAR UP, and have led evaluations at the district, state, and national levels using a full range of methodologies, including paper-based and online surveys, computer-aided telephone interviews (CATI), interviews, focus groups, and web-based collection systems.

Data Analysis and Reporting

Our research team has extensive experience in conducting high-level statistical analyses. We work closely with clients to identify appropriate indicators and measures and to determine appropriate analytical methods to assess program implementation and outcomes. Our research team conducts cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses of data, and supports GEAR UP staff in applying evaluation findings to data-driven decision-making. We provide extensive support for APR and biennial evaluation reporting—our publishing house even prepares camera-ready final reports for printing upon request.



Data Management

Our expertise in the development and architecture of large-scale data collection and management systems provides knowledge-based solutions to the challenges facing educators and policymakers. The EPI server used to host GEAR UP data is continually monitored and updated for security, backed up daily and provides greater than 99% uptime. The EPI-DAS is secured with industry best practices, and complies with all privacy requirements, including FERPA. Our technical team provides data migration services to relocate data files from the current vendor's data warehouse to the EPI data server.



Technical Assistance & Strategic Planning

Through our research expertise, EPI provides a solid foundation of empirical support for our partners and clients. Our staff's extensive experience in planning and administering state and partnership grants enables EPI to provide a wide range of technical assistance services for GEAR UP clients, including the design of college access public relations campaigns, strategic planning, first-year program ramp-up, APR preparation, grant writing services, leadership training, and staff training for data management and data-driven decision-making.

EPI-DAS

EPI recently unveiled its own longitudinal data management system — the EPI Data Analysis System, or **EPI-DAS** — for use with all its GEAR UP evaluation projects. **EPI-DAS** is a versatile system that facilitates data collection, descriptive analysis, and reporting. The utility of the system lies in its capacity to track individual GEAR UP student data over time, thus allowing for both cross sectional and longitudinal data analyses.

The screenshot shows the 'Services Offered' form in the EPI-DAS Student Data Analysis System. The form is titled 'Services Offered' and includes a 'Save and close window' button. The form fields are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Region | South Region |
| Name | Lake High School |
| Phone | 757-655-1212 |
| Minimum Grade | 9 |
| Maximum Grade | 12 |
| POC | Mark Williams |
| Street | 1000 Corporate Way |
| City | Norfolk |
| State | VA |
| Zip | 23511 |
| CreatedOn | 12/12/2008 |
| CreatedBy | damiadmin |
| ModifiedOn | 12/12/2008 |
| ModifiedBy | damiadmin |

Below the form, there is a 'Services Offered' section with a 'Name' field containing 'Computer Lab - Advanced' and a 'new service' checkbox. A 'Close Window' button is also present.

Technical Support

EPI provides a high level of technical support for EPI-DAS, including on-demand technical assistance and online training. Helpdesk services are provided to all GEAR UP clients in the form of telephone and online technical support to include: identifying and resolving data collection and management issues; uploading data files from other sources; updating user access privileges and account information; and copying and transitioning data to new school years. On-site training services are provided upon request.

Data Entry

The user-friendly screens of EPI-DAS enable data entry of program service information for students, parents, and teachers. Academic and participation data may also be batch-loaded directly into the system from Excel spreadsheets. Online survey data can be directly loaded into this system. Data can be exported from EPI-DAS in the form of .CSV spreadsheets for uploading into statistical software programs such as SPSS.

Reporting

EPI-DAS provides both pre-formatted and client-defined reports. Tabulations of program participation and student outcomes data are easily produced through the EPI-DAS reporting function. Users can display data tabulations at the program, region/district, and school level. The APR report feature allows users to generate real-time APR reports in Word format at the click of a mouse.

The screenshot shows the 'Students' form in the EPI-DAS Student Data Analysis System. The form is titled 'Students' and includes a 'Save' button and a 'Close Window' button. The form fields are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| ID | 12 |
| SchoolStudentID | 35435 |
| FirstName | Daniel |
| MiddleName | |
| LastName | Pendergrass |
| Date Of Birth | 10/18/1995 |
| Ethnicity/Race | Black or African American |
| First Year in GearUp | 2008 |
| Grade Level | 7 |
| Gender | Male |
| Eligible For Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LEP | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| IEP | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Street | 124 North Ave |
| City | Hampton |
| State | VA |
| Zip | 23443 |
| Notes | |
| CreatedOn | 12/12/2008 |
| CreatedBy | damiadmin |
| ModifiedOn | 12/12/2008 |
| ModifiedBy | damiadmin |

At the bottom of the form, there is a 'Save' button and a 'Close Window' button.

The **EPI-DAS** comes **FREE** with all new multi-year evaluation contracts. For more information, contact us at info@educationalpolicy.org or (757) 513-8266.

EPI GEAR UP NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



CHRISTINA MILANO is an education consultant based in Cleveland, Ohio. Formerly she served as Executive Director of the Cleveland Scholarship Program (CSP) in Cleveland, Ohio, one of the founders of the Ohio College Access Network, and former Executive Director of the National College Access Network. Ms. Milano has authored guidebooks on developing college access programs and statewide networks and has worked with community leaders from Maine to Alaska to help them create and sustain local access programs. Ms. Milano is a graduate of Lehman College in New York City with a degree in accounting.



AMAURY NORA is Professor and Director, Center for Student Success, in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. An experienced evaluator of GEAR UP and other pre-college initiatives, Professor Nora's research focuses on student academic achievement, pre-college and collegiate psychosocial factors impacting adjustment to college and student persistence, and access to higher education for diverse student populations across different types of institutions. Dr. Nora holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education from the University of Houston.



LINDA SHILLER is the Director of Career and Education Outreach, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. Ms. Shiller has served 14 years as Director of Career and Education Outreach at VSAC and Counselor and Assistant Director for 13 years prior. Her responsibilities include securing funding and overseeing GEAR UP and TRIO programs statewide. She serves on the NCCEP Advisory Commission, NCHELP's College Access Advisory Group, and the Council for Opportunity in Education's Board of Directors. Ms. Shiller has a Master's Degree in Education and Counseling from Southern Connecticut State University.



WATSON SCOTT SWAIL is the President and Chief Executive Officer of EPI International and the non-profit Educational Policy Institute. He is internationally recognized for his research on pre-college outreach programs, college access, and postsecondary success. Prior to founding EPI in 2002, he served as the founding director of The Pell Institute for Opportunity in Education and Associate Director of Policy Analysis for The College Board. Dr. Swail served on the original negotiated rulemaking committee for the US Department of Education back in the late 1990s. He has an Ed.D. in educational policy from The George Washington University.

The Educational Policy Institute (EPI) is based in Virginia Beach, Virginia and has as its mission the challenge of expanding educational opportunity for low-income and other historically-underrepresented students through high-level research and analysis.



"The staff of EPI are highly professional, well-versed in the field of data collection and analysis, and have an excellent understanding of education policy and practice."

- **Betsy Brand**, Director, American Youth Policy Forum, and former Assistant Secretary of Education, US Department of Education

"I consider EPI an essential ally in the improvement of K-16 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education."

- **Daryl Chubin**, Director, Center for Advancing Science & Engineering Capacity, American Association for the Advancement of Science

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