Montana GEAR UP provides college and career readiness services, such as tutoring, financial aid information, mentoring, college visits, and school staff training. Montana GEAR UP has hired an organization—Education Northwest, in Portland, Oregon—to evaluate the program. Education Northwest will learn what GEAR UP schools do; how the program is helping students, families, and teachers; and how to improve the program. Over the next five years (2020-2025), the research will include:

- Annual 15-minute surveys of students.
- Annual site visits to GEAR UP schools (including observations of GEAR UP activities and group interviews with students, lasting 30-60 minutes).

We would like your permission to ask your child whether he or she would like to participate in a survey, group interview, or observation related to GEAR UP. Student participation is completely voluntary. Students may choose not to participate, and they can stop participating at any time with no consequences. Nothing will change about their experience in GEAR UP if they do not participate in any of the research activities. There are no risks or benefits to your students for participating. We will keep all information students provide confidential and secure. Names will not appear on any reports written about this project. The research team will not distribute any data collected from students or use it in future research studies and will destroy all student data collected after our contract with Montana GEAR UP ends. If you have any questions about the research, you can contact Mandy Smoker Broaddus at (406) 438-2766.

Please check the box that applies and complete the form below:

☐ Yes, I consent that Education Northwest may ask my child(ren) to complete annual GEAR UP surveys, participate in group interviews, and be observed while participating in a GEAR UP activity.

☐ No, I do not consent for my child(ren) to participate in the student survey, group interviews, or observations.

Which school does your child(ren) attend? Please check one:

☐ Arlee
☐ Box Elder
☐ Browning
☐ Hardin
☐ Harlem
☐ Hays/Lodge Pole
☐ Heart Butte
☐ Lame Deer
☐ Libby

☐ Lodge Grass
☐ Pryor
☐ Rocky Boy
☐ St. Ignatius
☐ St. Regis
☐ Superior
☐ Thompson Falls
☐ Troy

--- turn over ---
Please provide information about your child(ren) on the next page
Please provide information about your child(ren)

Student first name: [Blank]
Student last name: [Blank]