

Nine of Maine's most rural and disadvantaged schools to receive seven years of support for Maine's next generation of leaders



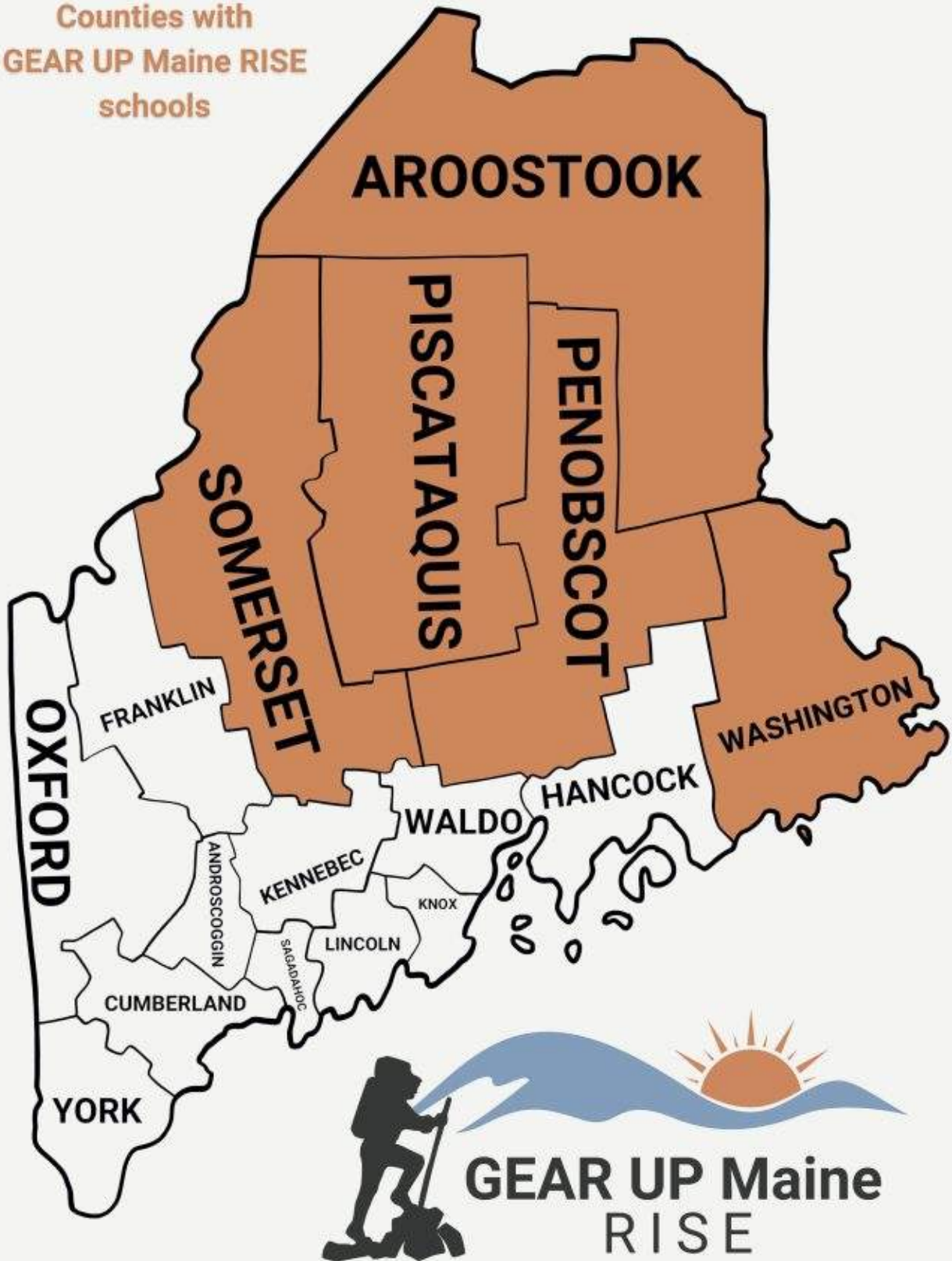
dailybulldog.com/education/nine-of-maines-most-rural-and-disadvantaged-schools-to-receive-seven-years-of-support-for-maines-next-generation-of-leaders/

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AUGUSTA – GEAR UP Maine RISE is thrilled to announce the selection of schools participating in the 2023-2030 grant cycle, marking a significant step towards developing and growing the next generation of Maine leaders. Through strategic partnerships with schools, postsecondary institutions, educators, families, students, and organizations, GEAR UP Maine RISE is dedicated to providing college and career preparation and opportunities to the state's most rural and disadvantaged school districts.

The selected schools embody the spirit of GEAR UP Maine RISE's mission to address the needs of under-resourced rural schools, demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence, enhancing career readiness, and empowering students from all backgrounds to achieve their full potential. Each school will receive tailored support and resources aimed at equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in higher education and the careers to which they aspire.

Orange =
Counties with
GEAR UP Maine RISE
schools



The GEAR UP Maine program is funded through a grant (reference #P334S230003; Marques Thomas, Project



A map of Maine showing counties with GEAR UP Maine Rise schools. Image provided.

Mandy Kilcollins, school counselor for Fort Fairfield Middle/High School in Aroostook County shares that her district is extremely thankful to have been chosen as a GEAR UP Maine RISE school for the current grant. She said “as it is with many districts currently, budgets are tight, meaning that programs and/or activities have been cut or not provided in the way they had been in the past. With the assistance of GEAR UP Maine RISE, we have already been able to provide a unique experience of taking a group of Juniors on several college tours. Our goal over the next several years is to continue to show our students the endless possibilities and pathways of post-secondary education, and to assist our students in reaching their goals whatever they may be.”

“We are thrilled to welcome these schools to the GEAR UP Maine RISE family,” said Debbie Gilmer, Project Director of GEAR UP Maine RISE. “We firmly believe that the GEAR UP Maine RISE grant is not just an investment in our schools; it’s an investment in Maine’s economy and future workforce. By providing college and career preparation and opportunities to our state’s most rural and disadvantaged school districts, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous Maine for generations to come.”

GEAR UP Maine RISE staff has been visiting schools this spring to spread awareness about the program and encourage students to participate in the activities and supports made available to them by this grant.

The participating schools for the 2023-2030 grant cycle are as follows:

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
Skowhegan Middle School
Skowhegan High School
Piscataquis Community Secondary School
Upper Kennebec Valley Jr/Sr School
East Grand School
Fort Fairfield Middle/High School
Katahdin Middle/High School
Stearns Jr/Sr High School

For more information about the GEAR UP Maine RISE, please visit www.gearupme.org.