

GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs



Purpose: To increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Offered by the U.S. Department of Education,* GEAR UP provides six- or seven-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school or the freshman year of college. GEAR UP funds may be used to provide college scholarships to low-income students.

Eligible Applicants:

- Any state agency designated by the governor of the state
- Partnerships consisting of one or more local education agencies and one or more degree-granting institutions of higher education and not less than two community organizations or other entities such as businesses, professional organizations or state agencies

Program Objectives:

- Increase the number of low-income students' academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education
- Increase the rate of high school graduation and preparation for postsecondary education
- Increase students' and families' knowledge of postsecondary education preparation, options and financial aid

Performance Measures:

- Percentage of students passing algebra by the end of the ninth grade
- Percentage of students who have knowledge of academic preparation for college
- Percentage of students who graduate from high school
- Percentage of former GEAR UP students who are enrolled in college
- Average daily attendance
- Students' education aspirations and expectations
- Percentage of students promoted to successive grade levels on time

College Board programs that support the goal and objectives of GEAR UP: CollegeEd®, SpringBoard®, SAT® Online, AP® Professional Development, Counselor Professional Development and ACCUPLACER®.

To learn how the College Board can help you develop a plan to increase college readiness in your district or state and apply for a GEAR UP grant, please contact your College Board educational manager.

FY11 Funding:
\$323,212,000

Duration:

Six or seven years (the seventh year of funding must provide activities for students in the first year of college)

Maximum Award:

State award maximum is dependent on the availability of funds.

Partnership award maximum is limited to \$800 per student.

Application Timeline:

The U.S. Department of Education anticipates releasing applications in February 2011, with all applications due in early spring 2011.

For complete guidelines and more information, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gearup>.

*Information excerpted from U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP Program Notice of Final Priorities (October 2010).