

# GEAR UP OVERVIEW

Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness  
for Undergraduate Programs

## Mission

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, GEAR UP helps students from low-income communities prepare for and succeed in education beyond high school.

**This work matters.** Students from low-income communities need equitable access to educational opportunities to meet future demands.

GEAR UP goals:

- Increase student expectations and readiness for education beyond high school
- Improve high school graduation and college enrollment rates
- Raise the knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation, and financial aid among students and families



## GEAR UP By The Numbers



568,775  
students  
served across  
43 states



All 2,954 schools  
attended by the  
students are  
low-income  
institutions



\$388 million  
annual funding  
from the U.S.  
Department of  
Education

## Types Of Services GEAR UP Provides:

- College and career planning
- Educator professional development
- Family engagement and workshops
- Financial aid advising
- Job site visits
- Mentoring
- Scholarships
- Tutoring and academic support



## What Makes GEAR UP Unique:

### Flexible implementation

- Programs can adapt GEAR UP to meet the specific needs of their local communities

### Early intervention

- GEAR UP begins no later than the seventh grade and serves students for six to seven years

### Maximized investment

- Every federal GEAR UP dollar must be matched by one non-grant dollar.

### Partnership and collaboration

- GEAR UP brings together middle and high schools, colleges and universities, state agencies, and community organizations in pursuit of the same mission

### Evaluation and improvement

- Grants collect data annually and assess the impact of GEAR UP



“GEAR UP changes the lives of students across the country. It helps students be prepared for life after high school.”  
– Educator, New Hampshire

“The investment in students has far-reaching impact felt in the thousands of local communities served by GEAR UP.”  
– Educator, Tennessee



This Report was created by the The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). A national association, strengthening GEAR UP programs through advocacy, technical assistance, professional development, and other supports.