



What is GEAR UP?

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. It is a **national initiative** designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP Massachusetts serves students in five cohorts across seven of the Commonwealth's most impoverished areas: Boston, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Springfield, and Worcester. Target middle and high schools have poverty rates as high as 93%, and most of the largest are categorized as persistently lowest achieving State Improvement Grant (SIG) schools. Over the past 12 years, GEAR UP Massachusetts has helped more than 10,000 students chart a path toward high school graduation and college success.

Goals & Objectives

GEAR UP Massachusetts will significantly increase the number of low-income students who obtain a secondary school diploma and are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education.

Objectives are

1. Improve the academic achievement and performance of GEAR UP students
2. Increase GEAR UP student persistence resulting in increased high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment
3. Increase student and family knowledge about academic requirements for college, the costs of college and available financial aid to help make college more affordable.

Activities

To improve academic achievement and performance, GEAR UP Massachusetts will provide targeted professional development on pre-Advanced Placement (AP) to provide teachers with strategies to harness students' higher-level learning skills. Students will also receive tutoring and mentoring services to foster academic growth and success. To promote high school graduation and college enrollment, the program will offer AP professional development to promote state standards and rigorous course-taking patterns. High school students also will receive early



diagnostic services to identify strengths and weaknesses in college readiness, with appropriate interventions so that project participants graduate high school as college ready. GEAR UP will provide early awareness services centered on college admissions requirements, financial literacy, and financial aid programs to increase student and family knowledge of college.

Scholarship

GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students that apply to any of the colleges in Massachusetts.

To learn more about our program or to register your child see information.

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