GEAR UP Nationally

The GEAR UP program is a discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

GEAR UP differs from other college access programs in that it uses a cohort approach that works with entire grade levels and becomes a systemic vehicle for change and innovation.

GEAR UP aids in the challenges that students face when preparing for and entering into a postsecondary program. These challenges include those of academic proficiency, disconnected P-16 systems, navigation of college options and enrollment processes, and affordability.

GEAR UP in Idaho - Goals

- Improve academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education of students.
- Increase rate of high school graduation and post-secondary preparation.
- Increase educational expectations of participants.
- Increase student and family knowledge of post-secondary options, preparation and financing.

GEAR UP in Idaho - Services

GEAR UP will serve approximately 5,000 students across the state of Idaho and provide services designed to increase classroom rigor and provide access to educational opportunities beyond high school. Services will include:

- **Student Enrollment in Rigorous and Challenging Coursework**
- **Administration and Implementation of ACT’s College Readiness System. (EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT)**
  GEAR UP Schools will be required to administer the EXPLORE in 8th grade, the PLAN in 10th grade and the ACT in 11th and 12th grade.
- **STEM Tutoring Program**
  All GEAR UP schools will implement (in school or after-school) tutoring with an emphasis on Science, Engineering, Technology and Math.
- **Education on Financial Aid and Financial Literacy**
  Starting in 7th grade, GEAR UP students must receive no less than three annual lessons or activities based on Financial Aid or Financial Literacy content.
- **College Awareness Activities**
  GEAR UP Students must participate in at least one visit to a postsecondary institution per year, starting in 7th grade.
Career Awareness Activities

Individual Secondary and Postsecondary Planning Session (academic counseling)

Parent, Family and Community Activities
GEAR UP schools must provide two annual parent activities dedicated solely to parent education on college preparation, admissions requirements, importance of rigorous coursework and postsecondary financing.

Professional Development

Commitment to Sustainability

Statewide Services -

▶ Annual College Access Summit and Youth Summits
▶ State, Postsecondary and Secondary school alignment on Rigor
▶ Provide National College Access Professional Development Opportunities
▶ Monthly Student, Parent and Community Communication and Education
▶ Scholarships for Dual Enrollment coursework
▶ ACT Implementation
▶ College Access Advocacy
▶ FAFSA Completion