



WHAT IS TEXAS GEAR UP?

Part of the federal GEAR UP initiative designed to increase the number of underserved students who are prepared to enter and excel in postsecondary education, **Texas GEAR UP** is focused on building a complete college-going culture that inspires students, families, and community members all across the state.

There are multiple GEAR UP grants around the state that serve the specific needs of students in their communities—and there's also a statewide **Texas GEAR UP** grant (managed by the Texas Education Agency) that helps ensure all GEAR UP students have access to the tools they need today to be ready for college and career success later in life.

TEXAS GEAR UP HAS 3 MAIN GOALS:

- 1 Increase the academic performance and college readiness of students
- 2 Increase the rate of high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment for students
- 3 Increase students' and families' knowledge of college options, preparation, and financing

 Texas GEAR UP has inspired dreams for more than **90,000 students** since 2005.

 GEAR UP has been around since 1999 and has served **more than 12 million** students nationwide.

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Focusing on communities with low college-going rates, **Texas GEAR UP** grants serve the same students from 7th-12th grade, following a single cohort to build college readiness and awareness through early intervention. The same advisors work with **Texas GEAR UP** students throughout the life of the grants, providing years of personalized support.

Each **Texas GEAR UP** grant offers unique programs and services tailored to the needs of its own community—often including academic planning, mentoring, counseling, tutoring, financial aid information, college application support, and family engagement. All **Texas GEAR UP** efforts focus on sustainability, which allows them to also help future classes of students after the GEAR UP cohort has moved on, leading to long-term changes at campus and district levels.

 Over a lifetime, people with bachelor's degrees **earn 84%** more than those with only high school diplomas.

WHO ELSE DOES IT HELP?

Parents...by providing hands-on information about college choices, college prep, and financing options right now so that families are prepared and empowered when the time comes (because 12th grade is too late to start getting ready)

Educators...by providing professional development training focused on the college access and readiness needs of students, as well as offering up curriculum and classroom tools

Administrators...by introducing new ideas and programming, increasing the on-time promotion rate, providing professional development, and effectively engaging parents

Local businesses...by laying the foundation for increased student success, which leads to a stronger local workforce (and businesses have the opportunity to offer support via partnerships with their local **Texas GEAR UP** grants)

Communities...by investing in student success and helping to build community-wide college-going cultures through innovative efforts that benefit far more than one group of students

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Reach out to your local **Texas GEAR UP** project
<http://texasgearup.com/educators-lounge/programs>

Let them know you'd like to offer your support. They'll be more than happy to share how you can help empower **Texas GEAR UP** students. We're all working together to change lives for the better and make futures even brighter!