

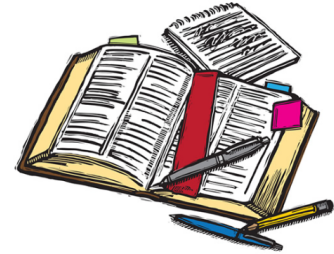


OCTOBER | ISSUE 3

The GEAR UP Gazette

9th - 10th grade issue

Preparing For College



Why Go To College

6 REASONS TO GO

- **Options!** There are many options for students after high school. College includes apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, four-year degrees, and more.
- **New experiences, people & places!** Whether your teen goes to a community college near your hometown, a state school a few hours away, or a private school in another state, he or she will have the opportunity to meet people and make friends from different places. In college, students have the chance to take classes in subjects that interest them and even study abroad in another country if they want.
- **Money. Education pays!** College graduates earn 60 percent more than a high school graduate, and those with advanced degrees earn two to three times as much as high school graduates. The jobs that require a college degree are more likely to have benefits and retirement plans as well.
- **Independence.** In college, students have control over the classes they want to take and how they spend their time. Your child might live at home, move into a college residence hall or dorm, or an apartment or house with friends.
- **Discover passions.** Students can get involved on campus with student clubs, athletics, and community service. There are also hundreds or even thousands of courses to choose from at college.
- **Job security & satisfaction.** Individuals with college degrees are more likely to have and keep their jobs, with lower unemployment rates than those with only a high school degree. In addition, having a college degree gives individuals more jobs to choose from and the opportunity to choose a career that is interesting and meaningful.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

GEAR UP Right Choices for Youth

College Fact

There are many different colleges and post secondary programs available. Some colleges require specific classes or high grades to be accepted, while others have no requirements beyond graduating from high school. College is an option for everyone - but the more challenging classes and the better grades your student gets, the more options she or he will have. Challenging classes and better grades also leads to greater access to scholarships.

Did you know?

By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

Apply it



Student Checklist

- Update your High School and Beyond Plan.
- Enroll in and pass a foreign language class.
- Enroll in and pass Algebra I.
- Ask your guidance counselor or teachers what Advanced Placement courses are available, whether you are eligible, and how to enroll in them.

Family Checklist

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to choose the most appropriate classes. Learn more about the high school counselor's role.
- Make sure your teen is taking challenging classes like a foreign language and algebra. Help your child set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your child stay motivated and focused.



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

GEAR UP Right Choices for Youth