

GEAR UP TN Program Overview



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF P-16 INITIATIVES

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GEAR UP TN: Program Overview



- USDOE awarded Tennessee \$29.5 million grant over seven years
- Aims to increase the number of low-income, first generation students enrolling and succeeding in college
- Provides direct college access and success services to “the cohort” and seniors at participating schools.
 - Cohort: Class of 2018, beginning in the 7th grade → 1st year in postsecondary education.

GEAR UP TN: Program Overview



- **Direct Services** Foster academic success, raise awareness of postsecondary opportunities, increase high school graduation and college enrollment, provide targeted intervention and assistance during educational transition points
- **Include:**
 - Site Coordinator to deliver college access counseling in each site
 - Tutoring, ACT Prep
 - Mentoring, counseling
 - Dual enrollment
 - College visits
 - FAFSA completion
 - Summer transition programs

GEAR UP TN: Program Overview



- **Additional Services Include:**
 - Early preparation for common core and PARCC implementation
 - Teacher and counselor professional development
 - Administration of PLAN, EXPLORE, ACT.
 - ✦ Early intervention using EPAS test results prior to ACT
 - School partnerships with Center for Dropout Prevention
 - Statewide media campaign
 - Statewide expansion of CollegeforTN.org college access web portal

GEAR UP TN: Program Overview



- GEAR UP TN Goals

1. Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
2. Increase the rates of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
3. Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.

GEAR UP TN: Program Overview



Objectives

1. Increase student academic achievement and course completion.
2. Increase student performance on college entrance exams.
3. Increase student high school graduation.
4. Increase student postsecondary participation and success.
5. Increase student and family educational expectations.
6. Increase student and family knowledge of and access to financial assistance for postsecondary education.
7. Increase parent and community engagement in activities associated with student preparation for college.
8. Increase educator content-area knowledge and understanding.

GEAR UP TN: Program Overview



Services implemented through competitive matching subcontracts to GEAR UP TN Collaboratives with a focus on community partnerships for long-term sustainability

Collaborative partners include:

- Eligible High Schools
- At Least one feeder middle school
- Local Board of Education
- One postsecondary institution
- At least 2 community based organizations
 - ✦ Strongly encouraged: tnAchieves or TN College Mentor Corps

GEAR UP TN: Call for Proposals



- Eligible high schools will:
 - Have at least 50 percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.
 - Have at least one feeder middle school with at least 50 percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.
 - Not be participating as a direct-service school in another current GEAR UP partnership grant.
- AND
 - ✦ Be classified as a priority high school as determined by the Tennessee Department of Education as of Spring 2012;
 - OR
 - ✦ Have a fall 2010 or 2011 college-going rate, as determined by THEC, at or below the state average of 56.8 and 57.1, respectively.

GEAR UP TN Implementation Timeline



Date	
6/15/2012	Release of GEAR UP TN Direct-Service Collaborative Call for Proposals.
7/18/2012	All Call for Proposal questions and letters of intent must be submitted in writing to THEC by 4:30 PM CDT.
8/15/2012	All proposals must be submitted to THEC by 4:30 PM CDT.
8/17/2012	Proposals provided to GEAR UP TN Call for Proposals Review Committee.
9/21/2012	Approval of subcontract recommendations by THEC. Subcontract recipients are notified of their selection or denial.

GEAR UP TN: Selection Process



- A review panel composed of readers external to the Office of P-16 Initiatives will evaluate eligible applications, and make recommendations to THEC in the areas of program, budget, and efficacy.