



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

OCTOBER

FOR PARENTS OF 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

## **“ATTITUDE IS A LITTLE THING THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.”** *Winston Churchill*

When it comes to helping your student prepare for college, one of the most important things you can do is communicate your expectations for good grades, graduation from high school and continuing on to postsecondary education.

Research shows that parent expectations of their student in 8<sup>th</sup> grade had big impacts on the student's academic achievement in high school and the likelihood he or she would earn a college degree:

### **Parent Expectations → Student Achievement**

When parents believe their student will complete more education, the student's academic achievement increases.

### **Parent Expectations → Perception of Parent Expectations → Student Expectations → Student Achievement**

When parents believe their student will complete more education, the student picks up on these expectations and internalizes them. Therefore, students have higher academic expectations for themselves which leads to higher academic achievement.

The bottom line: **let your student know that you believe in their ability to do well in school and go on to college** – your attitude and expectations matter more than you think!

*Sources: Harvard Family Research Project, 2004*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2017, 94% of GEAR UP parents surveyed believe their student will continue on to some form of higher education.

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** College is much harder than high school.

**REALITY:** Substitute "different" for "harder". College courses usually rely on just a couple of papers or tests for final grades instead of lots of assignments. Many courses don't have penalties students miss a class. The difficult part for most college students is learning how to handle the newfound freedom and responsibilities that larger class sizes, more free time, and about a million distractions bring.

Source: [College Bound Network](#)

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Share your high expectations.** Talk to your student about what she or he is studying in school and communicate your high expectations for good grades and going on to college.  
**TIP:** Observe language choices. Pay attention to the little things, such as saying “*When* you go to college...” not “*If* you go to college...”
- ☐ **Talk to the school.** Attend parent-teacher conferences, open houses and other events at the school to stay connected with teachers and school staff.
- ☐ **Make homework a priority.** Set aside time and space for your student to do homework and make sure she or he is turning in assignments on time.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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. Visit [oregongearup.org](http://oregongearup.org) to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

**COLLEGE.** It's not a dream, it's a plan.