

GEAR UP Professional Development



TOPIC

The Importance of High Expectations

GEAR UP “R”

Reaching Higher Rigor Relevance Relationships Raising Awareness

STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Learning Communities Leadership Resources Data
 Learning Designs Implementation Outcomes

learningforward.org/standards-for-professional-learning

OUTCOMES

Educators will understand how their expectations for students affect achievement and discuss strategies to hold high expectations for all students personally and school-wide.

MATERIALS

- You Tube video: [Great Teachers Challenge Students to Succeed \(youtu.be/-H9Z5qcir4Q\)](https://youtu.be/-H9Z5qcir4Q)
- Your cluster’s [GEAR UP Survey Highlights](#) and/or school’s [GEAR UP Survey Data](#)
- [Importance of High Expectations](http://oregongearup.org/files/research-briefs/highexpectations.pdf) research brief (oregongearup.org/files/research-briefs/highexpectations.pdf)
- Computer with speakers, projector, internet
- Flipchart, whiteboard, or something to write on

AGENDA

Time: 30-60 minutes

5-10 minutes

Discuss as a group:

- **As a school and as a staff, how do we define high expectations? How are we currently communicating high expectations to students, parents and staff?**
Depending on the size of the group, you may want to encourage small groups to discuss and then share out to a larger group. Consider the school’s mission statement, class or graduation requirements and other codified examples of expectations for students.

10-20 minutes

Watch video: [Great Teachers Challenge Students to Succeed](#)

Share expectations of college attainment data in [2014-15 GEAR UP Survey Highlights – Reaching Higher](#) section or school's [Survey Results](#): questions #9 (educators), #7 (parents/guardians) and #10 (students).

Discuss as a group:

- **In the video, teachers and students share how students rise to meet challenges when their teachers hold high expectations. How does this translate throughout our school/district?**
- **Summarize the expectations of college attainment for each group surveyed (students, educators and parents). What, if anything, surprised you? What strategies or messaging would encourage all students to develop high expectations for college attainment?**

10-20 minutes

Give participants an opportunity to read [Importance of High Expectations](#) research brief.

Discuss as a group:

- **On SREB's list of 10 strategies present in a culture of high expectations, which one does our school/district excel at? Which strategy needs more attention?**
- **What supports do we need to put in place in order to translate these classroom strategies into a school/district-wide culture of high expectations?**

5-10 minutes

To wrap up, encourage every participant to answer:

- **What is one thing you commit to doing differently as a result of these discussions?**
Have each participant write their answer on a note card or on a flipchart and post in a visible place. Let participants know that they should be prepared to report back on their progress at the next staff meeting.

EVALUATION

An online evaluation form can be found at bit.ly/gearup-pd-eval. All educators should complete the evaluation; results will be sent to the coordinator from a GEAR UP staff member.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Toolkits

- College-Going Culture: oregongearup.org/resource/college-going-culture-toolkit
Help create a college-going atmosphere in your school with high expectations for all students.

- Parent Engagement: oregongearup.org/resource/parent-engagement-toolkit
Parents and families also play a role in shaping student expectations and success. Engage and inform parents of their critical role with our toolkit.

School Promising Practices

- Creating a College-Going Culture: oregongearup.org/feature-stories/promising-practice-creating-college-going-culture
- Celebrating Seniors' Postsecondary Plans: oregongearup.org/feature-stories/promising-practice-celebrating-seniors-postsecondary-plans
- College Readiness is Elementary: oregongearup.org/feature-story/promising-practice-college-readiness-elementary

Podcasts

- Increasing Student Expectations and Test Scores: oregongearup.org/podcast/increasing-student-expectations-and-test-scores
- High Expectations for Students, Parents & Staff: oregongearup.org/podcast/high-expectations-students-parents-and-staff

Other Resources

- Establishing a Culture of High Expectations: connectionsproject.illinoisstate.edu/HSTWresources/04-ia-highexp.pdf
- The Power of High Expectations – Closing the Gap In Your Classroom: teachingasleadership.org/sites/default/files/Related-Readings/Diversity_CommunityandAchievement_Chapter2.pdf