Oregon GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally-funded program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in education after high school.

WHO WE SERVE

- **54 schools**
  - 22 elementary (K-8) or middle schools
  - 32 high schools (K-12, 7-12 or 9-12)
- **8,110 students** served in grades 7-12 and first year of college
- **64%** free/reduced lunch
- **27%** students of color
- **31 rural communities**

WHAT WE DO

Oregon GEAR UP helps schools prepare students for college and career by focusing on five key areas.

THE 5 R’S

- **REACHING HIGHER**: Create a school culture with high expectations for all students.
- **RIGOR**: Prepare students academically and provide extra support.
- **RELEVANCE**: Explore career options and the education and training needed.
- **RELATIONSHIPS**: Build a strong, positive community of peers and adults.
- **RAISING AWARENESS**: Provide information about college and how to pay for it.
“GEAR UP has created a different culture in our school.”
Matt Shorb, Superintendent/Principal, Powers High School

88% of students surveyed plan to complete some form of postsecondary education.
84% of educators surveyed believe their students will complete some form of postsecondary education.

87% of those students plan to complete a 4-year degree or higher.
58% of those educators believe that students will complete a 4-year degree or higher.

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Because of GEAR UP, students are more prepared to be successful in college.
Brian McCasline, Educator, South Lane School District

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“Because of GEAR UP, I really helped me decide which college I wanted to go to.”
Summer Gallaher, La Pine High School ‘14, University of Oregon ‘18

GEAR UP students received an average of 25 hours of counseling and advising on academic and career planning.

GEAR UP schools organized 76 campus visits to 25 different colleges.

75% of students have talked about college entrance requirements with someone from school or an adult at home.

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“all” or “most” of their closest friends are planning to go to college

63% of students surveyed believe that their teachers/counselors encourage them to take classes that keep them on track for college/career

72% of educators surveyed believe their students will complete some form of postsecondary education.

81% of those educators believe that students will complete a 4-year degree or higher.

75% of students surveyed believe their school provides challenging classes that will prepare them for college.

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Students say:

Driftwood Middle School and Pacific High School, serving the communities of Port Orford and Langlois, implemented a more rigorous math curriculum across all grades. Math teachers received professional development to better support students including a vertical alignment team with 5th-12th grade teachers, an administrator and a district math coach.

The instructional efforts paid off: 95% of students in grades 6-12 had a passing grade in their math class and high school test scores were above the state average.

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SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Seniors at Taft High School in Lincoln City celebrated their postsecondary plans at a schoolwide Signing Day assembly on May 1. In addition to receiving a pennant of their future school, students were honored for community service and the honor society.

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7th graders at Seven Oak Middle School in Lebanon explored local manufacturing companies to learn about a wide variety of career opportunities, the degrees/certificates required for employment and average wages.

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During their winter break, La Pine High School alumni returned to share their advice about preparing for college with juniors and seniors. A huge success, the high school participants received firsthand information about what to focus on from their near peers.

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Myrtle Point Junior/Senior High School encouraged every student to visit a college campus; each grade explored a different campus so that by senior year students are exposed to 2-year and 4-year colleges near and far. Pre- and post-assessments confirmed that students increased their knowledge and awareness of postsecondary opportunities by as much as 76%.

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4-YEAR DEGREE

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4-YEAR DEGREE

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**PARTNERSHIPS**

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Over 350 students participated in GEAR UP-sponsored summer programs including a Private College Week Camp in partnership with the Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges & Universities.

![Image of students with a sign that says Linfield College](image.png)

Thanks to our other summer program partners: OSU Precollege Programs, Seeds Training and FOCUS Training.

**COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

$74 students earned a 5:1 match in Individual Development Accounts managed by CASA of Oregon and NeighborWorks Umpqua.

**STATEWIDE INITIATIVES**

**COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK**

Over 4,400 students submitted almost 6,000 applications during Oregon College Application Week.

"I really appreciated the time we were given during school to work on and get help with the applications."

Senior, Lowell High School

24 of 86 sites were GEAR UP schools

**IT'S A PLAN: COLLEGE CHECKLISTS**

2,800 page views of It’s A Plan college checklists on oregongoestocollege.org

**2014-15 TIMELINE**

- Third federal grant received, serving 40 schools until 2021
- Kickoff meeting for new schools
- Schools hold GEAR UP kickoff events for students and parents
- Winter Statewide Meeting
- SUCCESS Retreat: 3 days of learning and planning with 150 educators
- National GEAR UP Conference; two students represent Oregon at Youth Congress
- Private College Week Camp; partnership with The Alliance announced
- National GEAR UP Week
- GEAR UP West Conference
- College Application Week
- Schools receive coaching during site visits
- New website launches
- Director Stephanie Carnahan receives GEAR UP Professional of the Year
- Student Leadership Events

**COLLEGE**

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