



Building a College-Going Culture for Iowa Students

WHAT

A federal grant that prepares students from low-income school districts to succeed in college

HOW

GEAR UP works with partner districts and with colleges and universities to provide college access and success services

WHY

These students are the least likely to go to college, and Iowa must address this gap to meet its education goals

GEAR UP Iowa follows students from seventh grade through their first year in college. Current GEAR UP Iowa students graduated from high school in 2020 are enrolling in college in 2020-21.

COLLEGE PARTNER GRANTEES

While GEAR UP works with all colleges and universities to support GEAR UP students who enroll there, these partner schools have received grants to fight "summer melt" and increase retention for the GEAR UP cohort:

Community Colleges

- Des Moines Area Community College
- Eastern Iowa Community College
- Indian Hills Community College

Regent Universities

- Iowa State University
- University of Iowa
- University of Northern Iowa

Private Colleges

- Drake University
- Grand View University
- Simpson College

"GEAR UP does everything they can to make sure their kids succeed!"

—Amelia, Washington High School
(Cedar Rapids)

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Students who were enrolled at a GEAR UP Iowa school during seventh or ninth grade are eligible for the GEAR UP Iowa scholarship. Full-time students can receive up to \$1,200 a year. The process to receive the scholarship:

- Student completes the FAFSA.
- Student enrolls in a Title IV college/university program.
- College/university verifies student enrollment, and scholarship is sent directly to the college/university.

For more information, go to the GEAR UP Iowa website at **GEARUPIowa.gov**

SUCSESSES

- **FAFSA completion:** 50 percent of GEAR UP Iowa seniors at partner high schools had completed a FAFSA as of July 2, 2020.
- **College plans:** 88 percent of GEAR UP Iowa's 2020 high school graduates plan to complete a two-year, four-year, or higher college degree.
- **Entrance exams:** 69 percent of GEAR UP Iowa students took the ACT in 11th grade, exceeding the baseline by 21 percent. Students who participated in GEAR UP's ACT preparation activities increased their scores from pre-test by an additional 0.5 points compared to students who did not participate.
- **Attendance:** GEAR UP Iowa students in the program from seventh through 10th grade had higher attendance in 10th grade than comparable non-GEAR UP students, with the most pronounced difference among students of low-socioeconomic-status.
- **Academics:** GEAR UP Iowa students from lower-SES families in the program from seventh through 10th grade had greater gains in reading and math proficiency, as well as higher rates of college readiness in reading.

"GEAR UP instills in us that we can be leaders, no matter what. GEAR UP has always been there for me!"

—Mo, Central High School (Davenport)



GEAR UP Iowa

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