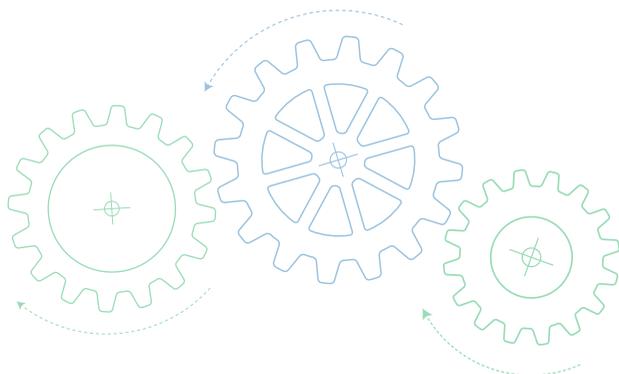
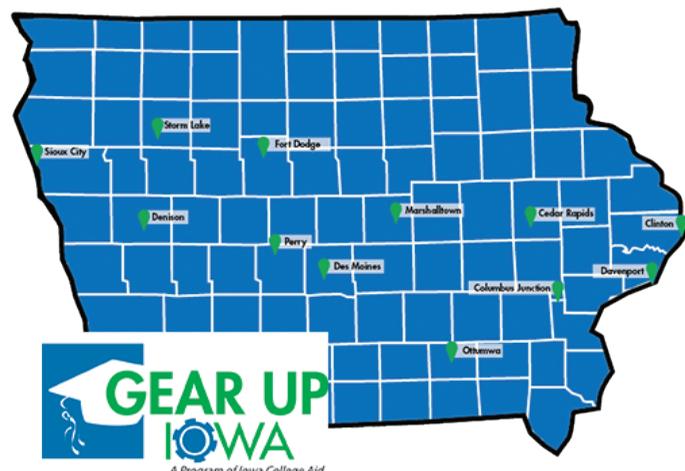


Welcome to GEAR UP Iowa!



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO GEAR UP IOWA



Sioux City • Storm Lake • Denison • Fort Dodge • Perry
Des Moines • Marshalltown • Cedar Rapids
Columbus Junction • Ottumwa • Davenport • Clinton

College. Let's get ready!

It is hard to believe that college is just a few short years away. As part of GEAR UP Iowa, your student will benefit from high academic expectations, learning strategies, college-going practices and innovative programs to increase college readiness and persistence.

Your school district is one of 12 partner districts selected to participate in this program. As a GEAR UP Iowa student, your child will have access to these services through his or her first year of college.



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Because College Changes Everything

About GEAR UP Iowa

WHAT

GEAR UP Iowa is a U.S. Department of Education-funded program administered by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

GOAL

Increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

WHO

7th graders in the 2014-2015 school year at all partner schools in the 12 GEAR UP Iowa districts are GEAR UP Iowa students and will remain part of the program through their first year of college in 2020-2021.

PARTNERS

GEAR UP Iowa works with state agencies, school districts, colleges, community organizations and local businesses to support efforts to create a college-going culture in schools and communities.



GEARUPIowa.gov

www.facebook.com/GEARUPIowa

www.twitter.com/GEARUP_Iowa

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Your Role as a GEAR UP Iowa Parent

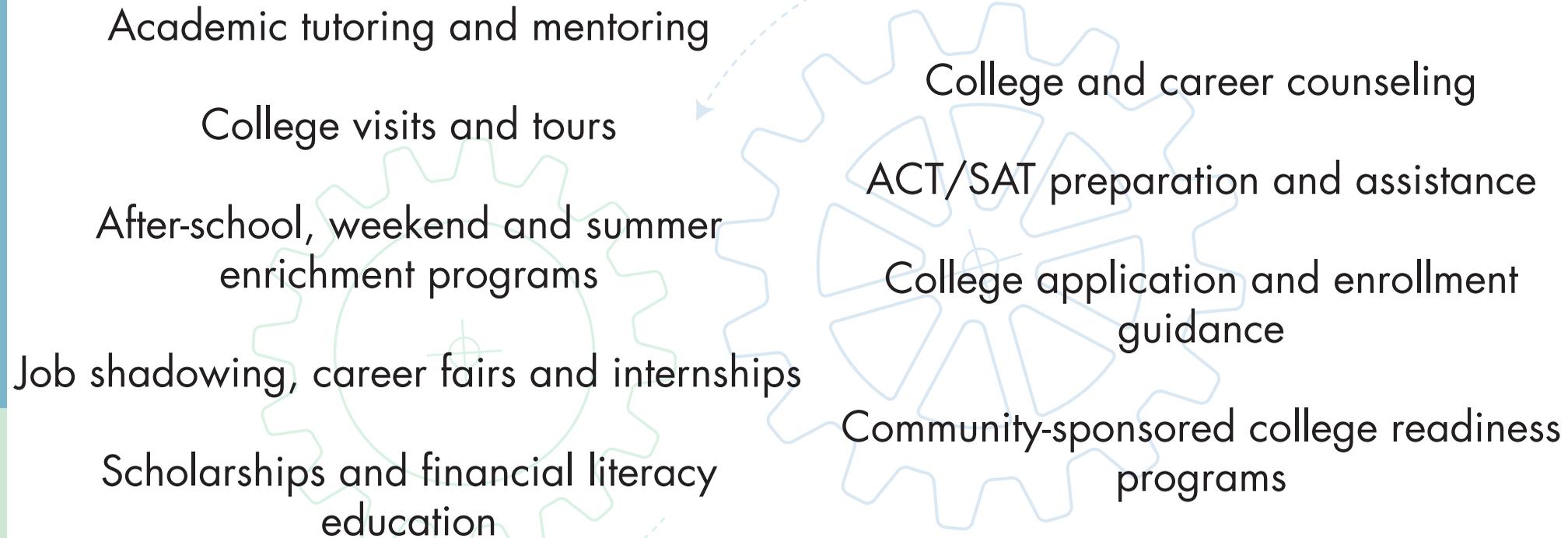
As a parent, **actively engaging** in your student's education and postsecondary preparation is vital to creating a **"College-Going"** culture. Each GEAR UP Iowa school will offer **events** for parents and students such as:

Family Nights
Campus Visits
Financial Literacy Events
Informational Newsletters

Scholarships and Financial Incentives

- GEAR UP Iowa **scholarships** for use toward postsecondary education will be available to students upon **graduation** from high school in 2020
- Additional **financial incentives** will also be provided through college partners and the State Treasurer of Iowa Office (College Savings Iowa 529 Plan)
- Institution awards provided by a list of GEAR UP Iowa partner colleges and universities

Committed to Your Child's Success



Education is Important

Iowans with higher levels of education:

- **Earn more** and are less likely to be unemployed
- Have a **better quality of life**
- Fill the growing need for **skilled** and **educated** workers in Iowa

GEAR UP Makes an Impact

GEAR UP programs across the nation have seen:

- **Growth** in students' aspirations and **college enrollment**
- **Gains** in academic assessments
- Increased completion of **financial aid** applications

GEAR UP Iowa Goals

- Increase **academic performance** and preparation for postsecondary education
- Increase high school **graduation** and postsecondary **enrollment rates**
- Increase **knowledge** of postsecondary education **options** and financing