GEAR UP Georgia

Get Exposed to...

the ABCs of College

WELCOME TO GEAR UP GEORGIA!

As a GEAR UP Georgia participant – College IS your DESTINY...

- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Text Message Updates on College & Career Activities
- College Visits
- Scholarship Boot Camps
- Financial Aid Workshops
- College & Career Planning
- Test Preparation
- Guest Speakers
- Summer Activities
- Parent Workshops
- Awards and Recognition Events
- Support through first year of College
- and much, much more!

GEAR UP FAQs

- **What is GEAR UP?** GEAR UP is a competitive federal grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that provides seven-year grants to education and community partnerships to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

- **What is the purpose of GEAR UP?** The vision of GEAR UP Georgia is for all students to be academically, socially, and financially prepared to enter and succeed in the postsecondary program or institution of their choice.

- **What does the GEAR UP Georgia program do?** GEAR UP Georgia provides funding to assist high-need school districts across the state, serving approximately 12,000 students and their families. Funds are used to build community support systems and provide college awareness and readiness activities.

- **Does GEAR UP work?** In 2014, 77% of program participants (nationally) enrolled in a post-secondary institution right after high school, according to federal statistics. That compares with 45.5% of low-income students overall.

- **How can I get more information?** You can get more information by visiting our website at GEARUPGeorgia.org, joining our text messaging campaign, and by checking out our social media accounts.

www.GEARUPGEORGIA.org  ●  (404) 962-3141  ●  GEARUPGeorgia@usg.edu  ●  Follow us:  

I DID IT!

www.GEARUPGEORGIA.org  ●  (404) 962-3141  ●  GEARUPGeorgia@usg.edu  ●  Follow us:  

Click Here
College Checklist for Middle School Students:

Have you created GAFutures.org account already? If not, sign up today! GAFutures.org will help you Explore Careers, Plan for College, and Search for Financial Aid.

Make sure you are on top of all your College & Career Prep tasks as a Middle School student by working through this checklist:

- Think about college as an important part of your future.
- Discuss your college thoughts and ideas with your family and with people at school.
- Develop good study habits and work ethic now!
- Take advantage of extracurricular activities.
- Discover your career interests by taking a career inventory questionnaire. Then, be sure to discuss the results with your Parents and talk to Career Professionals in those areas.
- Take challenging and interesting classes to prepare for high school.
- Meet with your counselor before the end of 7th grade to discuss accelerated 8th grade courses and plan your high school course schedule.
- Ask your parent or guardian to help you research which high schools or special programs will most benefit your interests.
- Tour local colleges.
- Start saving for college if you haven't already.
- Do your best in school and on standardized tests. If you are having difficulty, don't give up—get help from a teacher, tutor, or mentor.
- Become involved in school- or community-based activities that let you explore your interests and learn new things.
- Speak with adults, such as your teacher, school counselor or librarian, relatives, or family friends, who you think have interesting jobs. Ask them, “What do you like about your job?” and “What education did you need for your job?”
- Check out “My Future, My Way: First Steps Toward College, a workbook for middle and junior high school students” and lots of other cool tools on studentaid.ed.gov and bigfuture.collegeboard.org websites.

College Checklist for Middle School Parents:

- Create the best environment for learning by promoting education at home.
- Talk to your child about the benefits of a college education, which offers greater knowledge, greater potential, better career options, and more money.
- Make studying and reading a priority over less important activities like social media, television, radio, and games.
- Let teachers and counselors know that you expect your child to go to college and ask them how the school is preparing your child for college.
- Set high expectations for your child to do his or her personal best in the classroom without comparing them to other students.
- Always review your child’s report card and give positive feedback and encouragement.
- Ask the teacher to help you find tutors if your child continues to have difficulty with classwork.
- Limit unnecessary absences and tardiness. This takes away from critical instruction time.
- Know school policies on class participation, attendance, and behavior.
- Encourage and facilitate good behavior in school. Constant student conduct issues affect your child’s ability to learn and comprehend and will also distract the learning environment for other students.
- Encourage participation in community service and explain the importance of giving back to others.
- Talk to your child’s counselor about extracurricular activities, college awareness and career exploration efforts both after school and the summer.
- Always start your discussions by saying, “When you go to college....” and not “if.”
- Use FAFSA4caster tool at fafsa.ed.gov to find out how much federal student aid your child might receive. This information will help you plan ahead.
- Continue saving for your child’s college education. If you have not opened a savings account, learn about the tax advantages of saving and find a link to a clearinghouse of state college savings plans at studentaid.ed.gov website.
- Talk to your child about his or her interests and help match those interests with a college major and career.
- Help your child develop good study habits, such as studying at the same time and place every day and having the necessary materials to complete assignments.
- Stay in contact with your child’s teachers and counselor so that they can let you know about any changes in your child’s behavior or schoolwork.
- Keep an eye on your child’s grades on his or her tests and report cards, and help him or her find tutoring assistance, if necessary.
- Find tools for “Helping Your Child With Homework,” “Parent Power” and other great resources at studentaid.ed.gov and bigfuture.collegeboard.org websites.