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ABOUT

In October 2016, Georgia received a seven-year, \$21-million-dollar grant from the US Department of Education (USD OE) to administer the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Potential (GEAR UP) program. This is Georgia's first statewide GEAR UP Grant. The ultimate goal of the GEAR UP Georgia Project is to increase the number of Georgia high need students who obtain a secondary school diploma and are prepared for and succeed in postsecondary education and careers. With a statewide emphasis, this project proposes to serve a cohort of up to 12,000 students in the neediest pockets of the state as early as 7th grade through the completion of their first year of college. The project includes a priority focus of 10th, 11th, and 12th graders who have experienced homelessness or been in the foster care system.

PARTNERS

- Statewide** Embark/Fanning Institute; Georgia Alliance of Educational Agency Heads; Georgia Department of Education; Georgia Office of Student Achievement; Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education; Georgia Student Finance Commission; The Orange Duffel Bag Initiative; The Scholarship Academy; Technical College System of Georgia; University System of Georgia
- School Systems** Bibb County Schools; Chatham County Schools; Clayton County Schools; Cobb County Schools; DeKalb County Schools; Floyd County Schools; Fulton County Schools; Grady County Schools; Muscogee County Schools; Richmond County Schools; Thomas County Schools

GOALS

- To increase targeted Cohort and Priority Students academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education;
- To increase the percentage of targeted Cohort and Priority Students who graduate from high school and enroll in a post-secondary institution;
- To increase student and family knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation, financing and careers;
- To increase targeted Cohort and Priority student persistence rates for year one of post-secondary education.

SERVICES

- Academic Support Services** Early Assessment System; Providing academic support to decrease the need for remediation in post-secondary education; Encouraging enrollment in challenging coursework (rigor) in grade school, MS and HS.
- College & Career Exposure** Promote college access application, financial aid submission and college enrollment for high-need students; and Increase usage of Georgia's College Access Portal and other college and career resources.
- Community & Family Engagement** Engage a wide range of community and business organizations to create a college-going culture through a Public Awareness Campaign; Provide useful information on available Financial Aid.
- Seventh Year (GA Scholars)** Provide successful transition support for GEAR UP Georgia student through their first year of college.



INCREASING SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMAS ~ PREPARING FOR POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL SUCCESS

Inspiring Student Achievement through targeted support services and preparation efforts to raise expectations and rates of success

GRANT TIMELINE



The Project Evaluation and data collection will seek to determine to what extent did GEAR UP Georgia:

- Include students' academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education;
- Increase the percentage of targeted Cohort and Priority students who graduated from high school and enrolled in a post-secondary institution
- Increase student and family knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation and financing
- Increase student persistence rates for Year 1 of post-secondary education.

Data Collection Methods:

- **Quantitative:** GEAR UP Georgia Student, School, District Level Data; District & School Level Student Outcome Data; Survey Analysis.
- **Qualitative:** Annual Site Visits; Interviews & Focus Groups; Ongoing Review of GEAR UP Georgia materials.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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