

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO is involved?

Starting with the 1999-2000 school year, 6th and 7th grade students, along with their parents and school staff members, became the GEAR UP cohort. Partnering colleges, local businesses and organizations, and the GEAR UP staff have been working with this cohort and will continue our efforts as they move to the high schools in the 2001-2002 school year. The grant will involve this same group through August of 2004.

WHAT is GEAR UP?

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. This program encourages more young people to have high expectations for themselves, stay in and complete high school, develop good study habits and succeed in their post-secondary education and training experiences.

The three major thrusts for OKC schools are:

- Direct college-oriented services for students and parents.
- Curriculum alignment and teaching strategies helping students to be prepared for post-secondary studies.
- Establish and maintain relationships with post-secondary and business partners.

WHERE does GEAR UP take place?

All secondary schools are the primary locations for educating the students on the benefits of post-secondary education. There will be field trips and special activities providing students with the experiences and excitement of higher education.

WHEN did GEAR UP begin?

Starting with the 1999-2000 school year, the District began building brighter futures for our students. The grant lasts five years. During that time, the District will continually be seeking resources to continue to prepare students for the future.



Educating Students for Life-Long Learning and Responsible Living

Oklahoma City Public Schools

GEAR UP

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Oklahoma City Public Schools Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

GEAR UP with families, schools, and
our community partners . . .



Back to School OCPS celebration at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

The value and importance of a young person continuing his or her education and training beyond the high school years is not an arguable point. What is up for discussion in today's society is how soon a student should start preparing for his or her future.

The GEAR UP grant program, administered by Oklahoma City Public Schools and funded by U.S. Department of Education, is now making it possible for students and their parents to begin making the right choices. Learning about their higher-education options and preparing for college in middle school assures that our students will be better prepared for post-high school educational and training opportunities, and for life as an adult.

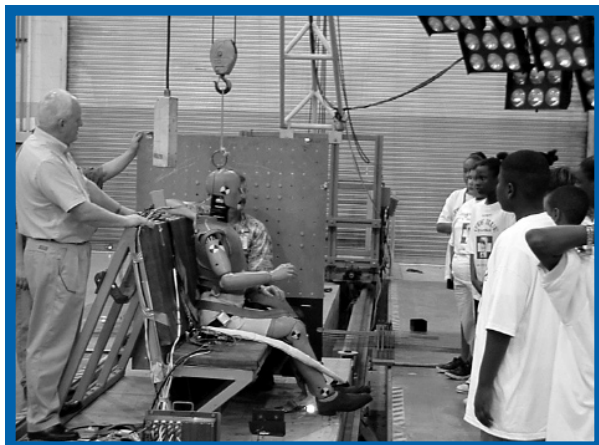
The GEAR UP grant has paved the way for the District and local post-secondary education and training institutions, including colleges and universities, to join forces in educating Oklahoma's youth and ensuring the continuation of their education and training.

In the past, most students began thinking about college during their junior or senior year. Thanks to this federal grant, the District is now striving to educate students so they will be better prepared for college and other post-high school educational opportunities.

Parents and students will become familiar with the benefits of furthering students' education earlier in the educational process.

Define your dreams...
 Prepare for the future...
GEAR UP for success...
 with Oklahoma City Public Schools.

The following have joined forces for our children's futures.
 We always welcome new partners.



Voyager Code Blue Field Trip to F.A.A.

GEAR UP includes three major goals:

- ✦ Encouraging students and their parents/guardians to prepare for college and the workplace.
- ✦ Enhancing the District's curriculum and teaching strategies to assure students are ready for college and the workplace.
- ✦ Building strong relationships with partners to sustain these changes and activities in the future.

Not only is the District working to change the curriculum, its efforts are being enhanced by support from local colleges, universities, post-secondary institutions, businesses and community partners. These partners will work with the District to carry out the reforms initiated and develop a seamless pre-kindergarten through college education process.



Student Portfolio Workshop

BUSINESS PARTNERS

- America Online
- Charles R. Ashley & Associates
- DPS Office Products
- Lucent Technologies
- Lyric Theatre
- Oklahoma Arts Institute
- Arts Council of Oklahoma City
- Oklahoma City Art Museum
- Oklahoma City Fire Department
- Oklahoma City Police Department
- Oklahoma County Medical Society
- Omniplex
- Parents Assistance Center
- Payne Education Center
- Torchmark/Hogan
- Xerox Corporation
- YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Community Council of Central OK., Inc.
- Eagle Ridge Institute
- Langston University
- Metro Tech Technology Centers
- Oklahoma City Community College
- Oklahoma City University
- Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- Oklahoma State University at OKC
- Rose State College
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma

HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS

- Capitol Hill High School
- Classen School of Advanced Studies
- Douglass High School
- Emerson Alternative Education Center
- John Marshall High School
- Northeast AHSE
- Northwest Classen High School
- Positive Tomorrows
- S.A.V.E. Program
- Southeast High School
- Star Spencer High School
- U.S. Grant High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERS

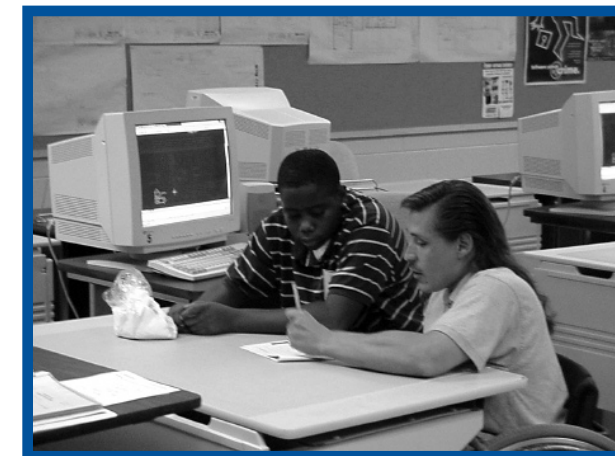
- Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School
- Classen School of Advanced Studies
- Dunjee Academy
- Gateway Academy
- Harding Middle School
- Hoover Middle School
- Independence Enterprise Middle School
- Jackson Middle School
- Jefferson Middle School
- Moon Middle School
- Northeast AHSE
- Rogers Middle School
- Roosevelt Middle School
- SeeWorth Academy
- Taft Middle School
- The About Face Academy
- Webster Middle School



Quality Training for Teachers with Dr. Lee Jenkins

The GEAR UP grant from the US Department of Education totals \$14.5 million through August of 2004. Funds from the grant allow the District to provide students with field trips to college campuses, offer tutoring and mentoring from partners and businesses, and train students in how to apply for scholarships and financial aid. In addition, college educators and District staff will align and enhance the curriculum to prepare students for high school graduation, higher education, and training experiences.

By participating in GEAR UP, Oklahoma City students will not only have an advantage when applying to colleges and other post-secondary institutions, they will also be better prepared for life upon graduation from high school.



Camp Tech at MetroTech