



GEAR UP

Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness
for Undergraduate Programs

WHAT IS GEAR UP?

GEAR UP is a grant program **created and funded by Congress** and administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

GEAR UP helps students from low-income communities prepare for and succeed in **education and training beyond high school** so they can achieve their career goals.

PROUDLY SERVING THE STATE OF UTAH

GEAR UP serves over 500,000 students at almost 3,000 schools across the country. Programs start in middle school and continue through a student's first year of education beyond high school.

Locally, GEAR UP Utah directly serves:

23,482

students served

7-12

grade levels
and 1st year of college

42

schools across
Utah

GEAR UP CREATES A STRONG WORKFORCE



70%

of jobs in Utah will
require education beyond
high school by 2031

*Georgetown Center for
Education and the Workforce*

By increasing career and college readiness, GEAR UP contributes to **a stronger workforce and economic growth.**

The program helps prepare students for the demands of the 21st-century job market, benefiting both individuals and the local and national economy.



ROOTED IN LOCAL NEEDS

GEAR UP Utah supports high schools statewide

20

years of serving
the State of Utah

GEAR UP Utah began investing in and transforming the community in 2005.



WHAT MAKES GEAR UP UNIQUE



Expands opportunity & increases mobility

GEAR UP opens doors to opportunity for students and their families by providing guidance on post-high school plans.

“GEAR UP Utah has greatly supported my children’s development. It has provided counseling, ACT prep, and university and career information. Most importantly, it has helped them gain confidence, make friends, and explore scholarship opportunities.”
— Ana Eslava, GEAR UP Parent



Demonstrates a proven track record & gets results

For over 25 years, GEAR UP has been a proven program, supporting millions of students and improving academic outcomes.

GEAR UP Utah has provided services in 90 schools across the state, served more than 24,000 students, provided more than 80,000 hours of services, and our students have maintained a 97% graduation rate.



Builds community investment & partnerships

GEAR UP fosters collaboration between schools, state agencies, industry, and community organizations. GEAR UP Utah has partnered with local school districts, businesses, Utah State University, Weber State University, Utah State University-Eastern and the San Juan Foundation.

There’s a return on investment for taxpayers, as GEAR UP Utah matches federal funds with an equal amount from non-federal sources. Since 2017, we have matched our federal funding with over \$24.5 million in local dollars.



Allows for local control & flexibility

GEAR UP empowers communities to identify and address their unique needs, offering tailored solutions rather than a one-size-fits-all federal approach.

GEAR UP Utah employs more than 60 staff members and supports educators in local schools. It leads community initiatives such as college readiness workshops, mentorship programs, career exploration events, financial aid literacy sessions, and parent engagement efforts. Additionally, GEAR UP Utah collaborates with local businesses, higher education institutions, and community organizations to provide students with hands-on learning experiences, internships, and scholarship opportunities.

