

# Washington State GEAR UP

Created by Congress in 1998, GEAR UP—Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs—is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Through a competitive process, awardees receive six- or seven-year grants to provide services designed to raise the expectations of low-income students and families and to increase college attendance and success.

**The goal of the program is to significantly increase the number of low-income middle and high school students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.**

*Since becoming law in 1998, GEAR UP has become a prolific program, impacting 12 million students in 49 states, Washington D.C., and the U.S. territories.*

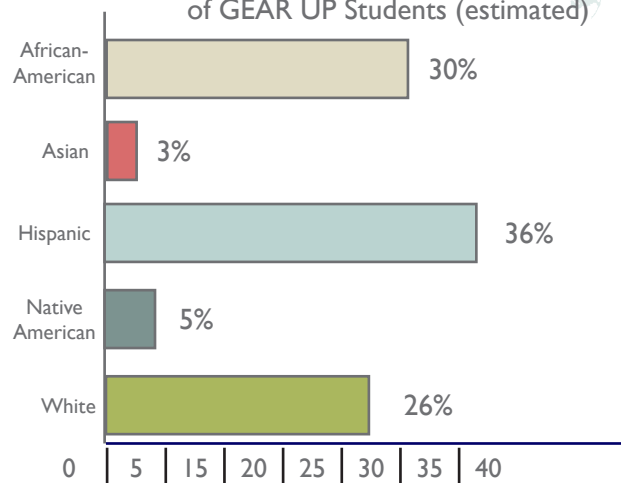


*GEAR UP currently serves 647,772 low-income students and families in 42 states and two territories from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. It provides information for students and families about college entrance requirements, scholarship resources, academic preparation, mentoring, counseling, and financial aid.*

“GEAR UP is the perfect example of what we can accomplish when we put the dreams and aspirations of our children’s future first. We have created a college-going culture among young people who never thought they could take that next critical step in education. When we help these young people achieve their potential we are helping to keep the United States number one in the world.”

- Congressman Chaka Fattah

Racial/Ethnic Composition of GEAR UP Students (estimated)



# In Washington...

**35,000**

35,000 students receive services from 10 GEAR UP programs statewide. Services include mentoring, tutoring, college visits, test preparation, and admissions and financial aid assistance.

**\$51,000,000**

With the program's dollar-for-dollar cost share requirement, the total investment in Washington is over \$51 million. The federal investment is \$25.5 million per year.

**75**

75 school districts in the most disadvantaged communities in the state received support to promote reforms and improvements in the school curriculum and in teaching and learning methods.

**At GEAR UP, we believe that young people who start planning in middle school have a better chance of entering college and completing their degrees.**



## Our results.

In 2011, Washington State University analyzed outcomes for Washington State GEAR UP students who graduated in the classes of 2001 through 2005. The analysis focuses on 769 students who earned scholarship credit through the program. For comparison purposes, parallel statistics have been included for a statewide population of low-income students from the same graduating classes who participated in the Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) program.

Contrasting GEAR UP participants with a comparison group of other low-income students, **GEAR UP students had more positive outcomes on virtually all measures of enrollment, persistence, and degree attainment.**

**Year One College Enrollment by Gender and Ethnicity**

