

Oregon GEAR UP Network

The number of students from low-income and other disadvantaged backgrounds who attend college in Oregon is alarmingly low compared to the national college going rates as well as to students from more economically advantaged families. Four weaknesses or gaps have been identified. These are: 1) low student academic performance as measured against statewide benchmarks in reading, writing, math, and math problem solving; 2) high dropout rates, four year average that exceeds 21%, 3) professional development for teachers and counselors and, 4) low educational expectations and lack of early outreach.

The Oregon GEAR UP Network proposes to work with 15 school clusters (middle school, high school, and college) to provide meaningful activities that result in long-term systemic change that ensures Oregon's disadvantaged middle school and secondary school students are prepared for, pursue, and succeed in postsecondary education.

Activities are divided into two categories: local and state. The strategies provide cluster schools with activities that will effectively address the project goals. The most prominent activities are teacher professional development, implementation of standards, early outreach, partnership development, student academic development, use of state and national assessments, and parental participation.

The project with support from three separate state agencies (Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Student Assistance Commission, and Oregon University System) will work with the current Title II, teacher training grant, Trio, and other programs that promote student achievement and college enrollment. Extensive evaluation will support program development at the state and local levels resulting in increased college opportunities for the anticipated 45,000 students who will participate.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Education, will provide \$12.5 million in funding over a five-year period to establish a GEAR UP program in the state. In addition to the substantial federal support, Oregon partners are also contributing over \$13 million of in-kind support. GEAR UP is an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. Oregon GEAR UP will be a partnership among OUS, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC).

**Oregon GEAR UP Network Partners
2002-03**

Middle Schools

High Schools

Name	City	Name	City
Armand Larive	Hermiston	Central	Independence
Binnsmead	Portland	Chiloquin	Chiloquin
Eagle Point	Eagle Point	Eagle Point	Eagle Point
French Prairie	Woodburn	Hermiston	Hermiston
George	Portland	Illinois Valley	Cave Junction
Hamlin	Springfield	Madras	Madras
Jefferson County	Madras	Madison	Portland
Lorna Byrne	Cave Junction	Marshall	Portland
Parrish	Salem	Marshfield	Coos Bay
Patton	McMinnville	McKay	Salem
Springfield	Springfield	McMinnville	McMinnville
Stephens	Salem	North Salem	Salem
Sunset	Coos Bay	Oakridge	Oakridge
Talmadge	Independence	Roosevelt	Portland
Valor	Woodburn	Springfield	Springfield
Waldo	Salem	Woodburn	Woodburn
Westridge	Oakridge		
Whitaker	Portland		

Statewide Partners

ACT
ASPIRE
Center for Applied Second Language Studies
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)
Community College and Workforce Development
Mathematics, Engineering, & Science Achievement (MESA)
Oregon Business Council (OBC)
Oregon Community Foundation (OCF)
Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
Oregon Education Association (OEA)
Oregon Quality Assurance in Teaching (O-QAT)
Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC)
Oregon University System (OUS)
Proficiency-based Admission Standards System (PASS)
Science and Mathematics Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE)
The College Board