What is GEAR UP?

- **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)**

- **Established in 1998 and funded through the US Department of Education**

- **Work with cohorts of students, starting no later than 7th grade, in middle schools with 50% or more free and reduced lunch**

- **Goals**
  - Increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education
  - Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education
  - Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of post secondary education options, preparation, and financing

GEAR UP North Carolina - History

2000

- First state grant awarded, 2000-2006
- 15 school districts
- Approximately 8000 students, unduplicated
- $7,525,007 federal funding
- $7,726,401 local support
- Referred to as "Cohort I"

2005

- Second state grant, 2005-2011
- 19 school districts
- Approximately 15,627 students
- $19, 267,721 federal support over the six-year grant
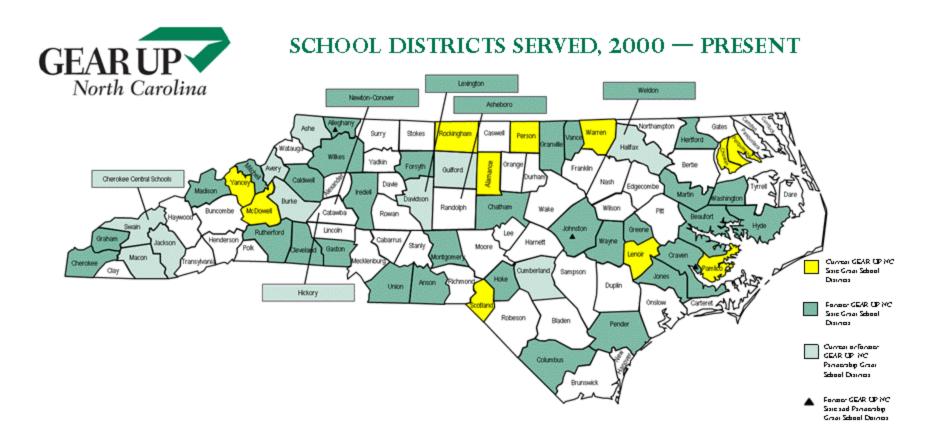- Equal match from state and local support
- Referred to as "Cohort II"

2012

- Third state grant, 2012-2019

- 11 school districts; 46 middle and high schools

- Approximately 22,000 students

- $28.6 million federal support over the seven-year grant

- Equal match from state and local support

- Referred to as "Cohort III"

Building on success of Cohort II

- GEAR UP North Carolina high schools experienced a 10.3 percentage point increase in the percentage of students graduating from high school during the six year program

- Outpaced the state in improving high school graduation rates; narrowing the gap between GEAR UP high schools and the state by almost half

- College enrollment rates increased by almost 10 percentage points across GEAR UP NC, growing from 52.4% to 62.2%

SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED, 2000 — PRESENT

GEAR UP Grant III Cohort and Priority Model

- **Cohort Model** will serve 4 Cohorts of 7th grade students and their families throughout the seven-year project.
- **Priority Model** will serve all 12th graders and their families at target high schools years 01-05 and in year 02 will begin serving first-year college students.
- **Whole-school approach** where every student in qualifying grades will be served.

	Year 01	Year 02	Year 03	Year 04	Year 05	Year 06	Year 07
7th Grade	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4			
8th Grade		Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4		
9th Grade			Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	
10th Grade				Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4
11th Grade					Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
12th grade	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
1st Year College		Priority 1	Priority2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Cohort 1

- **Goal 1.1**

  Increase the percentage of students taking and successfully completing Pre-Algebra by the end of 8th grade.

- **Goal 1.2**

  Increase the percentage of students taking and successfully completing Algebra I by the end of 9th grade.

- **Goal 1.3**

  Increase the percentage of students taking and successfully completing two years of math beyond Algebra I by the end of the 12th grade.

- **Goal 1.4**

  Increase the percentage of students who have knowledge of and demonstrate necessary academic preparation for college.

- **Goal 1.5**

  Increase the percentage of students who enroll in college without the need for remedial coursework.

Specific GEAR UP NC Goals

- **Goal 2.1**

  Decrease the high school dropout rate.

- **Goal 2.2**

  Increase the high school graduation rate.

- **Goal 2.3**

  Increase average daily attendance rates at middle schools and high schools.

- **Goal 2.4**

  Increase the percentage of students who apply, enroll, and succeed in college.

- **Goal 2.5**

  Increase the percentage of students who are on track to graduate from college.

- **Goal 3.1**

  Increase students' and families' knowledge of postsecondary education financing.

- **Goal 3.2**

  Increase families' active engagement in assisting students with academic preparation for college.

- **District will hire a GEAR UP Coordinator**
  - 100% of time dedicated to GEAR UP
  - 12-month LEA employee
  - Will report to LEA central office administrator (GEAR UP Liaison)
  - Provide services to students at target schools, collaborate with school staff, and enter monthly service data (at a minimum)
  - Minimum qualifications will include:
    - Experience working with youth
    - Knowledge of college planning, admissions requirements, and financial aid resources
    - Demonstrated commitment to college access
    - Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree

- **District will hire a Family and Community Facilitator**
  - 100% of time dedicated to GEAR UP
  - 12-month LEA employee
  - Will report to LEA central office administrator (GEAR UP Liaison)
  - Will provide services to the families of students at target schools, enter monthly service data, and engage local organizations, businesses, and colleges and universities in GEAR UP programming to ensure sustainability post-federal funding
  - Minimum qualifications will include:
    - Prior experience in community collaboration
    - Knowledge of college planning, admissions requirements, and financial aid resources
    - Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree

- **District will establish a GEAR UP Steering Committee**
  - Committee will serve to guide and refine the college access framework within the district
  - Must meet no less than quarterly to discuss progress, challenges, and next steps
  - Committee should be comprised of:
    - GEAR UP Coordinator
    - GEAR UP Family and Community Facilitator
    - GEAR UP Liaison
    - School staff such as: counselors or teachers
    - Students
    - Families
    - Local organizations, businesses, and colleges
    - Represent the larger community in terms of race, ethnicity, and gender

- **District will create a College Access Framework in Year 01 that will outline how the district will:**
  - Incorporate use of data, academic rigor and support, family engagement, community support, and high expectations for ALL GEAR UP students to meet the goals of the statewide program
  - Framework will identify resources already in place and gaps where resources are needed
  - Foundation of the district's college access framework will be the use of student-level academic, service, survey, and assessment data to drive college access programming
  - Assure sustainability during and post-Federal funding

GEAR UP NC Partners

- College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC)

- NC Department of Public Instruction

- NC Community College System

- NC Independent Colleges and Universities

- NC State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA)

- College Foundation, Inc. (CFI)

- ACT

- SAS Institute

- NC Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)

Student Services at the District Level

- **College Counseling and College Visits (examples)**
  - Students visit one or more college campuses
  - Academic advising and career counseling provided for *all* students
  - Students recognize that college students are only older extensions of themselves

- **Financial Aid Information and Counseling (examples)**
  - Generating awareness and removing the doubt that college expenses are out of reach
  - FAFSA tutorials and trainings
  - Scholarship dollars and how to obtain
  - Grants, loans, savings, and more

Student Services at the District Level

- **Career Awareness (examples)**
  - Individual or small group settings that enable students to explore a variety of careers
  - CFNC and Bridges
  - Job shadowing
  - Job site visits
  - Partnering with NCBCE Students@Work program

- **Motivational Activities/Cultural Events (examples)**
  - Fundamental purpose is to expose students to the arts, music, and diversity
  - Motivational speakers

Student Services at the District Level

- **Parent Involvement Opportunities (examples)**
  - Workshops provided on college preparation/financial aid
  - Counseling/advising made available
  - College visits are encouraged
  - Family events within the community and schools

- **After-School Programs, Tutoring, and Mentoring (examples)**
  - One-on-one and small group services
  - Assistance with homework
  - Early intervention through remediation practices
  - College student tutorials

Student Services at the District Level

- **Transition Programs (examples)**
  - Provide positive reinforcement and direction throughout periods of transition: 8th grade to high school; high school to college/careers
  - 9th grade academy
  - College advising
  - Campus-based programs for high school seniors

- **Summer Enrichment (examples)**
  - Programs held through the summer and/or spring break that address the academic and enrichment needs of the district
  - On-site individual district programming
  - County-wide programming

Student Services (examples)

- **GEAR UP Days**
  - On NC College Campuses specifically for GEAR UP Students

- **GEAR UP Summer Enrichment Programs on College Campuses**
  - Former Campuses offering programs: ECU, ECSU, NC A&T, NCCU, NCSU, UNC-C, UNC-P, UNC-W

- **Postsecondary Success Summits**
  - Enrichment opportunities targeted to specific students including Hispanic/LEP students, students with disabilities, minority males, and female students in pursuit of STEM careers

- **NC College Application Week**
  - Held each year statewide

- **GEAR UP Senior Days**
  - Former campuses: NCCU, UNC-C, ASU, WSSU, ECU, UNC-G, UNC-W, NCSU

- **Spanish Services**
  - Donna Weaver, Spanish Services Manager

Professional Development (examples)

– **Statewide College Access Forum**

Annual offering for 200 college access professionals in K-12 and higher education, along with other partners, to share best practices

– **Summer Institute and Topical Meetings**
- Year 01 – Developing a college-going culture by setting goals, building community partnerships, data-driven decision making
- Year 02 – High School transition and postsecondary services
- Year 03 – Maximizing family engagement and using CFNC
- Year 04 – Strengthening community partnerships
- Year 05 – FAFSA guidelines and postsecondary transition
- Year 06 – Sustainability and strategic planning
- Year 07 – Evaluating and replicating what works in college access programming

Professional Development (examples)

- Annual meetings: Superintendents, Liaisons, NC WISE data managers
- Quarterly GEAR UP Coordinator and Family and Community Facilitator training
- SAS Curriculum Pathways training
- CFNC and Bridges training
- Finance and data collection training

Data Collection

- Individual student data
- Web-based data portal for student and parent service data tied with academic data
- Web-based data portal for professional development data
- Bi-annual academic data collection directly from NC Wise
- National Student Clearinghouse
- Statewide collaboration of all GEAR UP grants in North Carolina that were funded in 2005 (Participation in the state GEAR UP database.)
    - GEAR UP North Carolina (State Grant)
    - Appalachian GEAR UP Partnership (Partnership Grant)
    - Southwestern Community College GEAR UP (Partnership Grant)
    - GEAR UP Johnston County Schools (Partnership Grant)

Student Services

Student Services Data Collected

- Tutoring/homework assistance/academic enrichment
- Rigorous academic curricula
- Comprehensive Mentoring
- Computer-assisted labs
- Financial aid counseling/advising
- Counseling/advising/academic planning/career counseling
- College visits/college student shadowing
- Job site visits/job shadowing
- Summer programs: district organized and residential on NC college campuses
- Educational field trips
- Workshops
- Family events
- Cultural events

Parent Services

Parent Services Data Collected

- Workshops on college preparation/financial aid
- Counseling/advising
- College visits
- Family events

How reimbursement works:

- Funded through a **yearly** subcontract

- **Annual** work plan and corresponding budget determine programming

- District reimbursed **monthly** via a claim reimbursement form provided by GEAR UP NC State Office

- Claims due by 15th of following month (ex. June claim due July 15th).

- All claims for reimbursement must be tied to data entry. If an activity is not documented in the student services database, then reimbursement may be denied. Training will be provided for database.

- ALL expenditures listed must be correct and allowable, reasonable, and allocable. Getting **pre-approval** for expenditures from GEAR UP NC State Office will alleviate the confusion about *allowable*. GEAR UP NC State Office will provide a form that can be used monthly to assist in the approval process.

Contact Information

Melissa Caperton

Director

GEAR UP North Carolina

mcaperton@northcarolina.edu

919-962-3355

Donnelle Graham

Director of Student Services

GEAR UP North Carolina

grahamdo@northcarolina.edu

919-698-2755