Since its launch in 1999, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded GEAR UP grants serving over 1.2 million students in 48 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories.

Arizona GEAR UP is a project of Northern Arizona University, supported by the U.S. Department of Education. The USDOE requires that every federal GEAR UP grant dollar awarded be matched 1:1 from a non-federal source.

Sources

Community Partners
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona College Scholarship Foundation
- Arizona Governor’s Office
- Arizona Business and Education Coalition
- Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education
- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona State University
- ACT, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters–Flagstaff
- City of Phoenix
- Expect More Arizona
- Maricopa Community College Foundation
- National Center for Community and Education Partnerships
- Northeast Arizona Learning Network
- Quantum Learning Network
- Sallie Mae Foundation
- The New York Times Knowledge Network
- USA Funds

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GEAR UP differs from other college access programs by:

- raising the academic aspirations of entire cohorts— not just selected individuals—and cultivating the motivation, knowledge and skills needed to succeed along the pathway to college;
- serving children only in their academic careers, beginning in 7th grade;
- serving cohorts of students all the way through high school; and
- enlisting the involvement of parents, teachers, guidance counselors and school administrators—as well as community groups.

Because the GEAR UP cohort approach ensures that all students in particular grades are served, the program is a successful model for increasing college-going

In Arizona, 12 six-year GEAR UP grants have been awarded since 1999—three State Grants and nine Partnership Grants. Northern Arizona University (NAU) has been the administrator for each of the three State (Arizona) GEAR UP Grants and one Partnership Grant.

1. **Northern Arizona University** (NAU) GEAR UP (six-year) Partnership Grants
2. **Navajo County Community College** (six-year) Partnership Grants
3. **Maricopa County Community College District** (seven-year) Partnership Grants
4. **Eastern Arizona College** (seven-year) Partnership Grant

The highest-achieving low-income students go to college at about the same rate as the lowest-achieving students from wealthy families.

Arizona’s economic future depends on producing more college graduates.