



Maine State GEAR UP Report 2011

Since 1999, GEAR UP federal funding and support has been vital to the educational aspirations and success of thousands of Maine citizens. The GEAR UP program, managed by Syntiro, is helping to create a sustainable culture in schools that supports students who are economically disadvantaged in preparing for, accessing, and succeeding in postsecondary education. More than 50% of the student body in participating schools are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

GEAR UP Impact Statistics:

- ★ 9,196 Maine students have received GEAR UP services since 1999.
- ★ 49 Maine schools within 18 districts have received consistent GEAR UP support throughout this project.
- ★ 87% of the GEAR UP class of 2011 graduated high school within four years of entering grade nine, an increase of 4% from 2006.
- ★ 30% more Maine GEAR UP students complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) than the national average of low-income students.

Graduates receiving scholarships at 163 postsecondary institutions:

School year	Number of students	Average scholarship amount per student
2005-06	126	\$3,970
2006-07	237	\$3,892
2007-08	410	\$4,145
2008-09	504	\$4,446
2009-10	629	\$5,107

Project Participation and Funding:

School year	Number of students served	Federal Funds Received*	Matching Contributions
2005-06	3,873	\$ 3,100,112	\$ 3,103,443
2006-07	2,957	\$ 3,000,769	\$ 3,100,112
2007-08	2,389	\$ 3,075,997	\$ 3,129,498
2008-09	1,813	\$ 3,100,112	\$ 3,112,130
2009-10	4,904	\$ 3,100,112	\$ 4,009,173
2010-11	6,001	\$ 3,100,112	\$ 3,318,297

**50% of federal funds received are reserved for postsecondary scholarships for GU students*

The Future of GEAR UP in Maine:

2011 was the final year of Maine's 2005 GEAR UP grant. Maine did not receive any GEAR UP funding, the repercussions of which will be felt in many areas of Maine's education system and economy.

Impact of the Loss of GEAR UP funding for the State of Maine:

- ★ # of scholarship dollars lost: 1.55 million/ year to Maine colleges and universities. The Institutes of Higher Education will be left to make up the loss ultimately resulting in less funding and fewer students from low income households who attend college.
- ★ # of direct jobs lost: 19 school-based employees and 7 project staff dedicated to supporting Maine students in accessing college lost their jobs and many are now among Maine's unemployed.
- ★ # of indirect jobs lost: 50 (central office, summer programming, invoicing, etc.)
- ★ # of partners whose engagement will be lost: 62: 33 dsitriacts (96 schools) and 29 community partners.
- ★ \$ in local matching resources lost: 3.98 million/year.

From our students:

"GEAR UP, along with my high school, encouraged me to volunteer, keep my grades up, and to always put all of my effort into my work. My school's GEAR UP advisor would also do check-ins with all of the GEAR UP students to ensure none of us needed help and were consistently college- or work-bound after high school. Overall, GEAR UP made sure I was ready to move on."

– Crow Dusk, Casco Bay High School, Class of 2011

"Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, 'Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.' For me, this quote is very important because I am in the first person in my family to go where there is no path—onto college. The GEAR UP scholarship has supported my attendance at the University of Maine at Farmington since entering as a freshmen in Fall 2008."

– Eric Brooks, Narraguagus High School, Class of 2008

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