




► Maine State
GEAR UP
Yearbook
2008



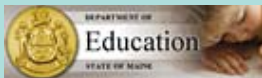
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a U.S. Department of Education discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of students from low income families who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

The Maine State GEAR UP program is funded through a grant (reference #P3345050037; James Davis, Project Officer,) from the U.S. Department of Education to the Maine Department of Education and is managed by the Maine Support Network.

Maine State GEAR UP Program
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To ensure that Maine State GEAR UP improves the outcomes for Maine youth, GEAR UP schools are working to ensure:

- ▶ All 8th grade students develop proficient algebraic skills.
- ▶ All high school students take college courses.
- ▶ All students have individual learning plans.
- ▶ All seniors complete their FAFSA before March 1.
- ▶ All parents are actively involved in their child's education.
- ▶ All seniors complete at least one application to attend a post-secondary school.
- ▶ All schools increase the number of rigorous courses, including AP and college courses.
- ▶ All schools promote high aspirations for all students by facilitating student engagement and achievement in a supportive learning environment.

▶ www.gearupme.org



GEAR UP Districts



- MSAD 04**
Piscataquis Community High School
Piscataquis Community Middle School
- MSAD 14**
East Grand School
- MSAD 19**
Lubec Consolidated School
- MSAD 30**
Lee Academy
Mount Jefferson Junior High
- MSAD 37**
Cherryfield Elementary
Columbia Falls Elementary
Daniel W. Merritt School
Harrington Elementary School
Milbridge Elementary School
Narraguagus High School
- MSAD 49**
Lawrence High School
Lawrence Junior High School

GEAR UP Districts and Schools - Key to Map

- CSD 9**
Southern Aroostook CSD School
- Maine Indian Education**
Beatrice Rafferty School
Calais High School
Indian Township School
Woodland High School



Southern Aroostook CSD students at Colby.

Brandon Tomah, 2006 GEAR UP Student of the Year, from Calais High School and Lee Academy.

9. **MSAD 58**

Mt. Abram Regional High School
Phillips Elementary School
Stratton Elementary School
Strong Elementary School

10. **MSAD 59**

Athens Elementary School
Madison High School
Madison Junior High School

11. **MSAD 70**

Hodgdon Elementary School
Hodgdon High School

12. **MSAD 74**

Carrabec Community School
Carrabec High School

13. **Portland Public Schools**

Deering High School
King Middle School
Portland High School

14. **Union 102**

Jonesboro Elementary School
Machias High School
Rose M. Gaffney School

15. **Union 103**

Jonesport Elementary School
Jonesport-Beals High School

16. **Union 104**

Eastport Elementary School
Shead High School

17. **Union 90 (Greenbush)**

Helen S. Dunn Elementary School
Old Town High School

18. **Union 96 CSD 4 Flanders Bay CSD**

Ella Lewis School
Mountain View School
Peninsula CSD School
Sunmer High School



Miranda Prior, center, receives GEAR UP award and scholarship at National Conference in Washington D.C.



Abdi Ashkir, 2007 GEAR UP Student of the Year, from Portland High School.



What Type of Learner Am I? workshop at Portland High School.



Susan Gendron, Commissioner of Education, with GEAR UP administrators Deb Gilmer, Corda Kinze, & Pam Flood at the New England GEAR UP Conference.

Objective 1:

Increase the academic achievement of students in post-secondary education



Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine, Orono

▶ *"The content of college courses is doable for all kids in the school. Twenty-eight students took the college math and all but 2 passed, and they could have. We are very demanding regarding what we expect kids to take."*

- Colin Campbell, Principal, Madison HS

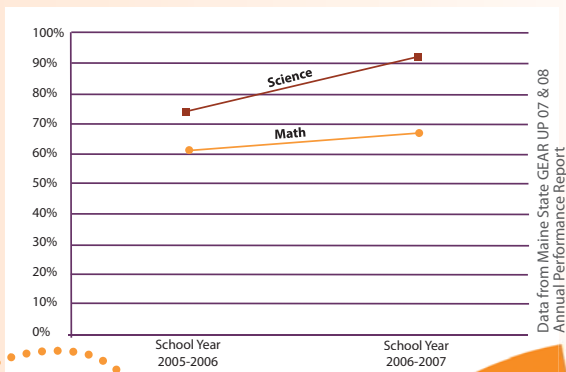
▶ *"At Janet's suggestion (our GEAR UP Liaison), I'll be going to Lewiston next week to look at their Aspirations Lab."*

- Pam Swett, Principal, Lawrence HS

academic performance and preparation for education of participating students.

Preparing GEAR UP Students for College Academics

GEAR UP Students completing one or more math or science course (where offered) in addition to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, high school Biology and Chemistry.



Objective #1

Objective #2

Objective #3

Objective #4

Objective #5

Objective 2:

Increase the rate of high school graduation
in post-secondary education



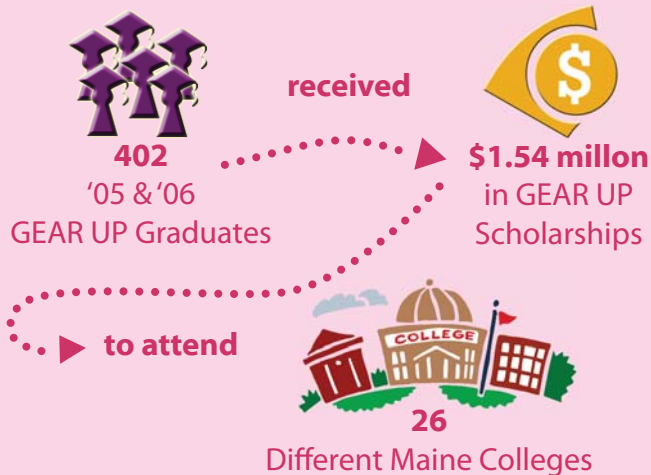
GEAR UP Students on a College Trip

"Seventy nine percent of our seniors have been accepted and said they are going to college. This is up from 40-50% from 10 years ago, when I started here. Also, we've found having local people as the financial 'experts' helps support families (filing FAFSAs and engaging in financial planning) instead of bringing in an outside person. In the last 8 years our high school has gone from offering no AP courses available to offering 6 courses."

- Jeanne Tucker, Principal, Mt. Abram HS

high school graduation and participation
education of participating students.

In the 07-08 school year:



Data from Finance Authority of Maine (FAME)

"One third of high school students who take early college courses here eventually enroll at UMM. On average we have between 50-60 high school students taking early college courses each semester. One semester we had 80 students participating in an early college course."
- Carol Wolf, GEAR UP Partner,
University of Maine Machias

Objective #1

Objective #2

Objective #3

Objective #4

Objective #5

Objective 3:

Increase educational e
and student family kn
options, preparation, a



Photo courtesy of Brittany Woodbridge, Lubec Consolidated School Class of '08

Lubec Principal Peter Doak, Guidance Counselor Kendrick Mitchell, Superintendent Mike Buckley, & Guidance Secretary Cindy Eaton.

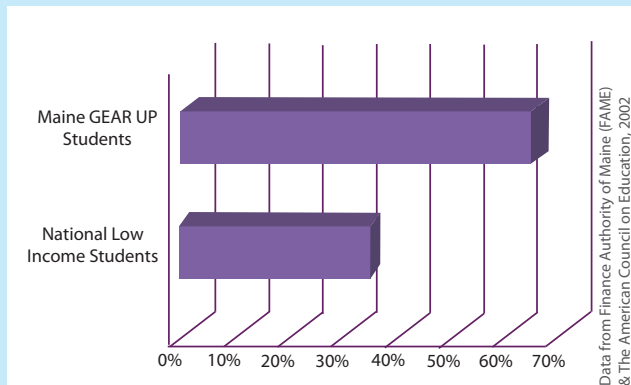
Lubec was voted one of America's Best High Schools in 2007 by US News

▶ *"We started student led conferences last year. We were having a hard time getting parents in but after we started the student led conferences that really changed. We now have 97% of parents show up to participate in the conferences."*

- Mike Buckley, Superintendent, Lubec

expectations for participating students
knowledge of post-secondary education
and financing.

Percentage of Seniors Who Filed a FAFSA from 2006-2008



Many students and their families do not realize they are eligible to receive financial aid to support their college-going aspirations. Guidance counselors report that once students realize they have this support they are more likely to apply and attend college.

► *"The greatest benefit from student-led conferences is that it gets parents in the school and gets them involved in a conversation about learning."*

-Colin Campbell, Principal, Madison HS

Objective #1

Objective #2

Objective #3

Objective #4

Objective #5

Objective 4:

To integrate the GEAL educational infrastru



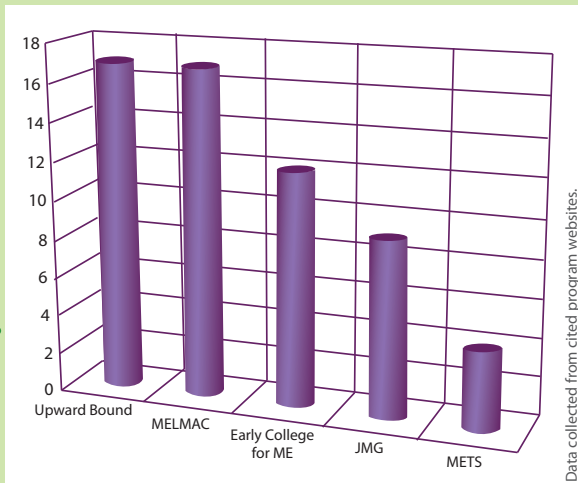
Keegan Qualey interacting with an Amy Stacey Curtis installation at Colby College.

“Three years ago it felt like kids were being pulled in different directions without a cohesive plan; now we really have pulled everything together into a year-by-year plan for each student.”

-Colleen Haskell, Superintendent & Principal,
Jonesport-Beals HS

GEAR UP program into Maine's existing culture.

Of the 21 GEAR UP high schools, 20 are served by at least one other Upward Bound, MELMAC, Early College for ME, JMG, or METS Program:



▲ *"The planning grants for MELMAC have been a great springboard for schools to really think about their current college-going culture/structure and activities. The advisory meetings have provided an opportunity for staff to take the time to plan with input from others outside the school."*
-Wendy Allen, Maine State GEAR UP Regional Technical Assistance Coordinator

Objective #1

Objective #2

Objective #3

Objective #4

Objective #5

Objective 5:

Anchor the use of Ma
and distance learning
strategies and activiti



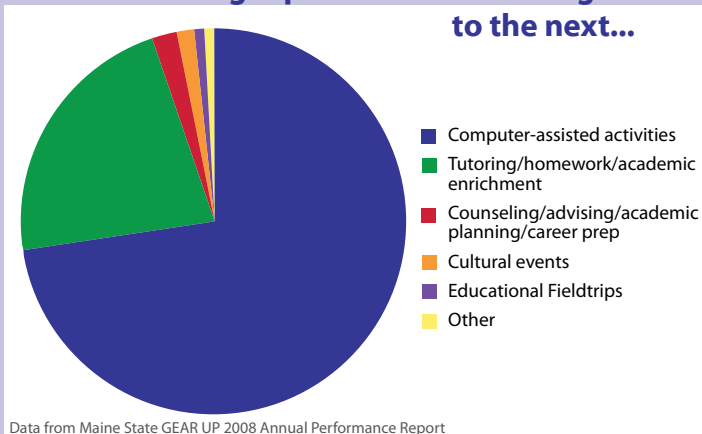
New England GEAR UP Conference Polycom Session, October 2007

► *"We hosted the New England Regional GEAR UP Conference in Rockport in October. More than 100 GEAR UP professionals, staff, students, and families from across the region participated in this exciting and fun learning event. Maine's Commissioner of Education provided a welcome and brief keynote address. A plenary student panel was conducted using distance technology from Machias High School and a principals' call in session provided the foundation for a valuable resource: Principals Share 100 College-Going Strategies."*

- Excerpt from Maine State GEAR UP Annual Performance Report, April 2008

ine's Learning Technology Initiative
g networks into the GEAR UP program
ies.

**Of the 138,500 activity hours logged in
activities that have been identified to help
students get promoted from one grade
to the next...**



► *"I'm really excited about the way ConnectEdu will allow me to track each student's college application. We've had some problems in the past with colleges saying 'No, we didn't get that,' but with ConnectEdu I will be notified exactly when the college receives each piece of the application."*

-Ruth Ann Cowger, Guidance Counselor, East Grand HS

Objective #1

Objective #2

Objective #3

Objective #4

Objective #5

Maine State GEAR UP

The Maine Department of Education was awarded its second six year GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant in 2005. This award supports 18 partner school districts in further developing a college-going culture for all of their students, with an emphasis on students from low-income families. To meet this charge, the Maine Department of Education secured the services of the Maine Support Network to manage the project and to oversee the implementation of supports to meet the project goal and objectives. There have been many exciting developments as a result of this project. The Maine Department of Education, and Commissioner of Education Susan Gendron, are proud to share some of our accomplishments in this first Maine State GEAR UP Yearbook.

Project Goal:
The Project will leverage Maine's advanced technological infrastructure to create a sustainable program that supports students who are economically disadvantaged in preparing for, accessing, and succeeding in post-secondary education.