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## Colorado GEAR UP Quick Facts

*Colorado GEAR UP is a federally-funded program serving students in middle and high schools across the state. The GEAR UP model includes intense advising, concurrent enrollment, early remediation and CLEP testing to ensure students receive college credit for their skills. Students also receive up to \$10,000 in scholarships for college. Most GEAR UP students would be the first in their families to go to college.*

### Student Population, High School Graduation and College Enrollment

- 87% of GEAR UP students graduated from high school compared to a statewide graduation rate of 72%.
- 75% of GEAR UP students who graduated had earned a partially proficient or unsatisfactory score in at least one subject on state tests while in middle school.
- 84% enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation compared to a statewide enrollment rate of 57%.
- 81% of GEAR UP students persisted through their first year of college compared to a statewide average retention rate of 70%.

### What's Different about Colorado GEAR UP: Our 4 Key Strategies

#### **Concurrent Enrollment:**

- GEAR UP students may begin taking college-prep courses in middle school and college classes as high school sophomores.
- The average GEAR UP student graduates high school having completed five college classes and earning an average of 17 college credits.
- 86% of GEAR UP college courses are completed with a C or better.

#### **CLEP Testing:**

- College Level Examination Program or CLEP tests allow students to earn college credits in areas that they have prior knowledge or coursework. GEAR UP offers the Spanish Language CLEP test and some subject tests to students.
- Nearly 600 tests have been completed; 88% of students earned some level of credits, with more than 50 percent of test-takers earning up to 12 college credits.

#### **Intense Advising:**

- Pre-collegiate advisors recruit students as seventh-graders, begin twice-monthly contacts with students as eighth-graders and follow them through their first year of college.

#### **Remedial Education Courses:**

- GEAR UP offers remedial education courses in English and math in many of our partner middle and high schools.
- In a pilot, more than 80% of students passed the courses and either completed their remedial education requirements for college or advanced toward that goal. The pilot has grown to more than 1,000 students.

### Analysis of Return on Investment

- Total Cost of Program - \$35 million (\$5 million per year over seven years, including scholarships)
- Economic Benefits - \$172.8 million (Provided 45% of an estimated 6,400 GEAR UP students achieve a bachelor's degree and pay lifetime taxes of \$60,000)
- Total Tax Increase Benefit - \$137.8 million (total cost of program minus economic benefits)

### One- Ones may consist of, (sample list):

- Grade checks
- Attendance checks
- Mentoring
- Review of terminology or concepts from curriculum workshops
- Goal setting
- Study skills
- Career exploration conversations
- College related topics
- Grades & attendance should be monitored