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- GEAR UP = Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs.
 - Our mission is to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. This includes public or private four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, and vocational/technical schools.
 - GEAR UP is a cohort program that works with a defined group of about 1,500 students in Des Moines Public Schools. We began with these students when they entered 7th grade in 2006, and we have moved with them into high school and will stick with these same students until they graduate from high school.
 - GEAR UP currently exists in the five comprehensive high schools in DMPS, including East, Hoover, Lincoln, North, and Roosevelt.
 - Students were automatically enrolled in GEAR UP in 7th grade if they went to a middle school where at least 50% of its students qualify for free or reduced lunch.
 - GEAR UP has advisors in all five of our high schools, working with students on a daily basis. Primary activities include-
 - Providing college field trips, advising, and academic support for students
 - Workshops and informational sessions for parents
 - Technology, instructional supply purchases, and frameworks for how to engage students in postsecondary education preparations for schools
 - Professional development for teachers
 - GEAR UP is a federal grant program funded through the U.S. Department of Education.
 - As of 2009, 93% of GEAR UP students plan on attaining an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, and/or a graduate or professional degree after graduating from high school.
 - Website: <http://www.icansucceed.org/DMGEARUP/default.aspx>