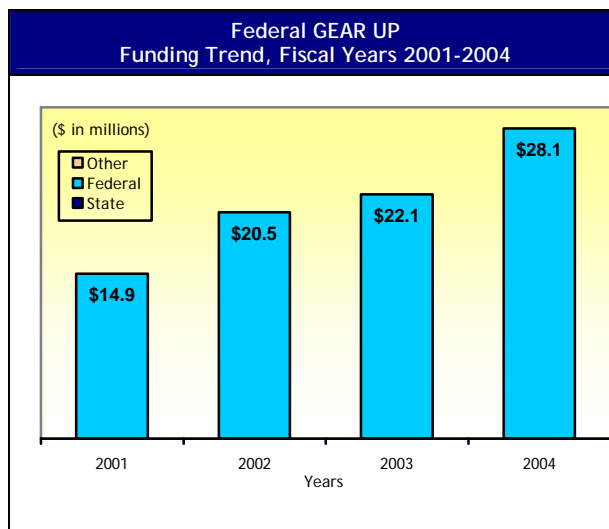


Summary by the Texas State Auditor's Office on:

Federal GEAR UP

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, Higher Education Act, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 2, Chapter 2, 20 U.S.C. 1070a-21-1070a-28 and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 84.334

Funding Sources, Fiscal Year 2004		
Federal	State Appropriations	Other ^a
\$28,085,919	\$ 0	UA
Funding Method	Competitive grants	
No. of Grants	25	
Range	\$172,635 - \$5,581,121	
Eligible Entities	Any state agency designated by the governor of the state and partnerships consisting of at least one college or university, at least one low-income middle school, and at least two other partners, such as community organizations, businesses, religious groups, student organizations, state or local education agencies, and parent groups	



^a Federal GEAR UP requires a dollar-for-dollar match. Section 404C(b) of the Higher Education Act requires that at least 50 percent of the total cost of a GEAR UP project be paid with state, local, institutional, or private funds. These dollar-for-dollar matching contributions can be in the form of cash or of documented in-kind contributions.

Federal GEAR UP Funds, Fiscal Years 2001-2004		LEAs, Other Entities, Students, and Parents Served	
Year	Federal Awards to Tx Grantees	Districts	Students
2001	\$ 14,918,520	50	36,404
2002	\$ 20,499,641	52	53,632
2003	\$ 22,113,717	61	69,199
2004	\$ 28,085,919	61	79,995
Totals	\$ 85,617,797	224	239,230

UA -Unavailable NA - Category does not apply NYA- Not yet available (as of report date)

Targeted Students and Grade Levels

Federal GEAR UP targets one or more cohorts (all the students in a grade), beginning in sixth or seventh grade, in a school where at least 50 percent of the students are economically disadvantaged (eligible for free and reduced-price lunch or residing in public housing). Grantees add a new cohort of sixth- or seventh-graders each year while continuing to follow their other cohorts through the public school system.

Program Components

Program Component	Required/Recommended/Allowed
Counseling/Case Management	✓
Diagnostics-Based Intervention	
Academic Intervention	✓
Small Group Instruction/Limited Class Size	
School-Day or Out-of-School Activity	Out-of-School
Computer Assisted Instruction	
Literacy/ESL/Bilingual Instruction	
College Preparation	✓

Program Component	Required/Recommended/Allowed
Career Preparation	✓
Mentoring	✓
Professional Development	✓
Parental Involvement/Education	✓
Community Involvement/Services/Enrichment	✓
Pregnancy and Parenting Services	
Children's Day Care	
Safe Environment	

The information in these program summaries has been compiled from multiple sources of varying reliability and is unaudited. Sources include the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Department of Education, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, universities, colleges, and other nonprofit organizations.

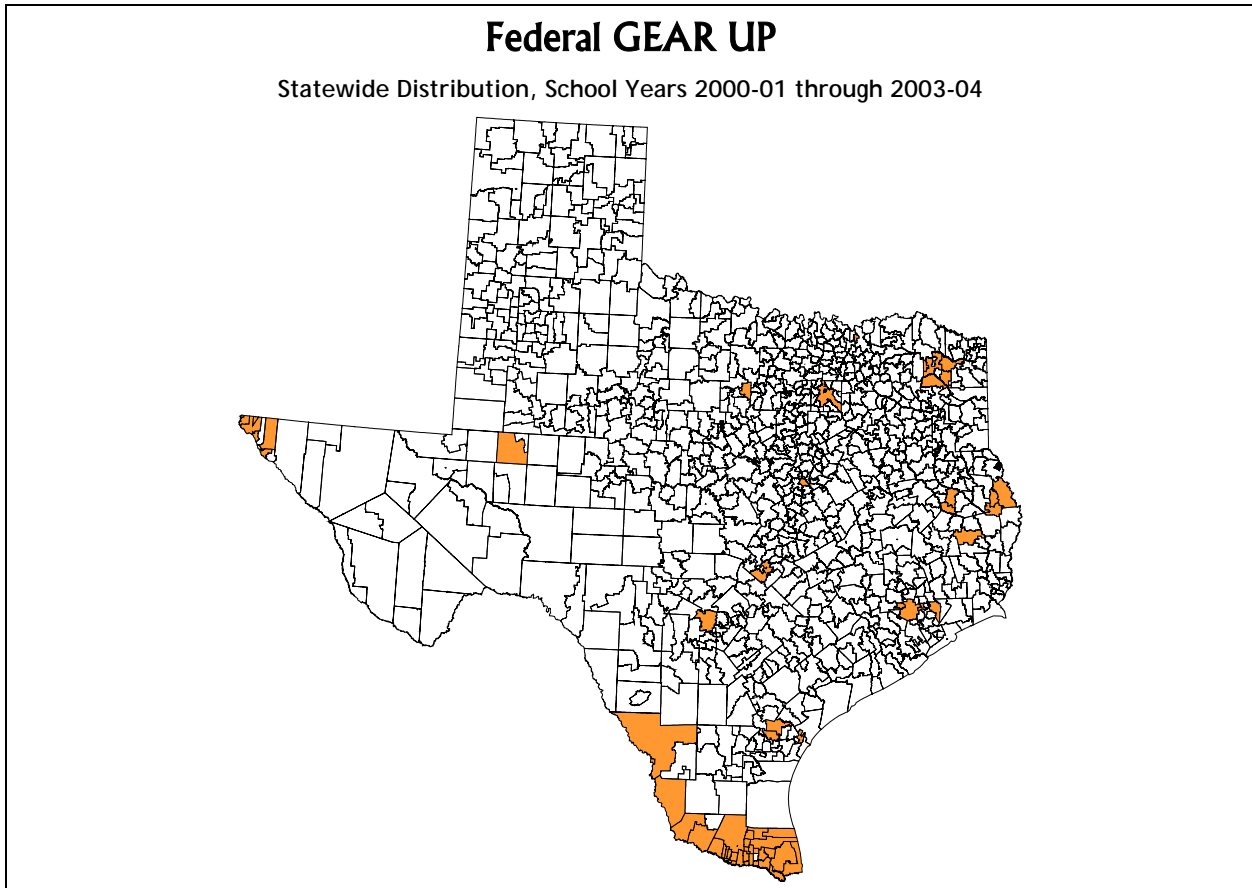
Comments

GEAR UP employs partnerships to support and accelerate the academic achievement of cohorts of students (all the students in a grade) beginning in the sixth or no later than the seventh grade. The program was designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. It provides five-year grants to state partnerships with one college or university, at least one low-income middle school, and at least two other community-based organizations. The grantee partnerships follow their cohorts through high school completion, adding a new cohort each year. Activities, which include students, teachers, and parents, offer a broad range of academic, support, and enrichment services, including tutoring, counseling/mentoring, incentives such as parties and cookouts, field trips to colleges and universities, summer programs, SAT preparation, job shadowing opportunities, career and college counseling, financial aid assistance, and scholarships. Partners encourage and assist students in enrolling in and successfully completing rigorous advanced placement classes. Activities for teachers include staff development, including multicultural training, advanced placement training, computer training on software applications, and vertical team training. Parents receive education in subjects such as financial aid, completing college applications, scholarships, and basic computer courses. GEAR UP works with parents to assist them in becoming advocates for their students in public school and college.

Evaluation*

In April 2003, Westat released a national evaluation of the first two years of the GEAR UP program. The study found that counselors were developing individual plans for all students, or at least for all students having academic or behavioral difficulties. GEAR UP was providing substantial amounts of tutoring to students in preparation for state assessment tests. Teachers felt that GEAR UP was creating a more positive climate in the school. Although 42 percent of the students cited college costs as the main reason for not continuing with education, one-half of the GEAR UP students expected to complete coursework for a college degree. One quarter of the students anticipated completing coursework for a graduate or professional degree after high school. The study found that the programs were able to offer mentoring to only a limited number of students and that participation in after-school and Saturday programs was generally low. A longitudinal study tracking GEAR UP students into and beyond college is not yet available.

* In most cases it is not possible to isolate the effects of funding for a single program on students' performance because districts applying for state funding for at-risk students are required to combine local, state, and federal resources to maximize services to at-risk students. For the same reason, a single program's cost does not provide a meaningful basis for determining the cost per student of a desired or achieved outcome.



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