GRANT INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

GEAR UP Idaho 4



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SAFETY COORDINATION | GEAR UP

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1. PROGRAM INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Department of Education is excited to serve Idaho's schools and students through GAINING EARLY AWARENESS and READINESS for UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (GEAR UP). The program, GEAR UP IDAHO 4, will be Idaho's fourth iteration of the program. Idaho will be eligible to apply for federal funding for the GEAR UP Idaho 4 program in Spring 2025. All school partners selected through the application process outlined in this application packet will be selected conditionally upon receipt of a federal award and listed in the federal grant application.

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS - COHORT APPROACH

The Secretary shall require that eligible entities:

(A) provide services under this division to at least one grade level of students, beginning not later than 7th grade, in a participating school that has a 7th grade and in which at least 50 percent of the students enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.] (or, if an eligible entity determines that it would promote the effectiveness of a program, an entire grade level of students, beginning not later than the 7th grade, who reside in public housing as defined in section 1437a(b)(1) of title 42);

(B) ensure that the services are provided through the 12th grade to students in the participating grade level and provide the option of continued services through the student's first year of attendance at an institution of higher education to the extent the provision of such services was described in the eligible entity's application for assistance under this division.

GEAR UP IDAHO 4 PROGRAM DETAILS

ABOUT GEAR UP IDAHO

GEAR UP is a discretionary federal grant program focusing on early intervention strategies to assist low-income and first-generation students in becoming prepared for postsecondary education. GEAR UP strives to help students meet the standards necessary for high school graduation and provide them with the skills to succeed beyond high school.

GEAR UP Idaho 4 expects to serve over 5,500 students in two cohorts beginning in the 7th grade through the students' first year of college. GEAR UP Idaho will provide funding to reimburse schools for approved program expenses and GEAR UP school coordinator salaries.

GEAR UP Idaho provides school partners with a framework by which to design annual programs. Though activity types are prescribed at the state level, schools design activities that are responsive to the needs of their local communities. GEAR UP Idaho also provides scholarships to all students in the program who choose to pursue a degree or certificate at an Idaho college or university.

Exhibit A provides a breakdown of grade levels served each year. Selected school partners meeting school goals and demonstrating sufficient progress towards program objectives will receive a new allocation each year of the grant.

Exhibit A: Grade Levels Served by Year						
SY 25/26	SY 26/27	SY 27/28	SY 28/29	SY 29/30	SY 30/31	SY 31-32
7 th	7 th and 8 th	8 th and 9 th	9 th and 10 th	10 th and 11 th	11 th and 12 th	12th

GEAR UP IDAHO SCHOOL COORDINATORS

GEAR UP School Coordinators are essential to the success of the GEAR UP Idaho program. All participating schools will be required to hire, and strive to retain, a GEAR UP School Coordinator to carry out critical functions of the grant. School coordinator employment status (FTE) and salaries can vary from LEA (Local Education Agency – District or Charter) to LEA, but arrangements must prove sufficient to run a school's program and be approved by state staff. Potential school coordinator arrangements may include:

- Hiring of a full-time or part-time staff member who only works on GEAR UP.
- Hiring of a part-time staff member who splits time between two functions within a school/LEA.
- Providing a stipend to, or buying out part of the contract for, a teacher or school counselor who has capacity to carry out GEAR UP duties in addition to their other responsibilities.

Exhibit B outlines the specifics of the GEAR UP School Coordinator position that a LEA should consider before applying.

Exhibit B: School Coordinator Responsibilities and Considerations

SALARIES

The recommended salary range for a GEAR UP Idaho School Coordinator is \$17-28 per hour. This is <u>not</u> an entry level or clerical position and should not be categorized as so. Though salary can be dictated by the LEA, the position must be categorized appropriately to incentivize retention and to match the level of administrative and programmatic responsibility that comes with the role.

COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

School coordinator responsibilities will include the following.

- Keep accurate financial records and manage the program budget.
- Collect federal match and submit reports as required.
- Ensure program compliance through financial reporting, data entry, program planning, and other required tasks or processes as directed by GEAR UP state staff.

- Work with teachers to provide resources and support for the career-integrated classroom component. Develop a method for tracking participation and activities. Enter student service data
- Plan events or field trips as needed, and as approved in the program plan.
- Plan and implement student services to meet program requirements.
- Work with parents and the community to increase support and opportunities for students.
- Organize professional development to meet program requirements. Track and log participation.
- Attend state, regional, and national trainings or conferences as a representative of GEAR UP Idaho for the purposes of increasing personal knowledge or skills or presenting to disseminate best practices.

ESTIMATED SCHOOL FUNDING AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Though exact funding amounts cannot be determined until a federal award is made and school partners are selected, the following guidance should provide potential applicants with a general guideline for anticipated school funding. *Exhibit C* outlines estimated school funding guidelines and additional benefits provided to schools through the GEAR UP Idaho program.

Exhibit C: School Funding Guidelines and Additional Benefits

BASE FUNDING RANGES

- Small Schools (1-120 in both cohorts): \$18,500
- Medium Schools (121-220 students in both cohorts): \$28,500
- Large Schools (221+ students in both cohorts): \$38,000

Note: The numbers above reference anticipated SY 25-26 6^{th} and 7^{th} grade cohort enrollment.

PER STUDENT ALLOCATION

In addition to the base funding for each school, the formula will include an additional \$80 per student based on the school's cohort grade level enrollment.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Additional funding may be granted to rural/remote schools.
- Above amounts are anticipated guidelines for funding, not exact figures.
- Additional mini grants may be awarded to meet priority objectives identified for a specific school year.
- Amounts include the calculations for years where two cohorts are being served.
- Maximum award shall not exceed \$110,000 in any school LEA.
- Years 1 and 7 allocations may be reduced due to serving only one cohort.

Note: This is an estimated funding formula. Exact awards will not be set until all school partners are selected.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

In addition to the allocations proposed above, GEAR UP provides many benefits to school LEAs. These benefits may include:

- Access to GEAR UP Sponsored professional development (PD) including topical virtual PD and in-person school-level PD modules.
- The ability to use GEAR UP funds for fixed costs that benefit all students in a school. (For example: guest speakers, trainings, events)
- Paid teacher PD credits, classroom materials, and equipment necessary for the implementation of the GEAR UP program.
- Scholarships for all students for four years immediately following high school graduation.
 Guaranteed amount of \$740 (minimum pell) per year, for four years, but anticipated to be much higher.

GEAR UP IDAHO ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

While program requirements may change from year to year to meet the needs of students as they progress towards high school graduation, schools can expect to implement the activities and initiatives outlined in *Exhibit D*.

Exhibit D: GEAR UP Ida	aho Activities and Initiatives	
ACTIVITY/INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	
Advanced	Efforts designed to increase students' knowledge of advanced coursework	
Coursework	available in their school and support to help schools increase options available	
	to students.	
College Awareness	Campus tours, workshops, and other activities designed to increase students'	
	knowledge around the value of and options for postsecondary education and	
	training. Also includes workshops associated with helping students, and their	
	parents understand the costs associated with college and options for paying	
	for college.	
Career Readiness	Career readiness must be taught in every cohort classroom but can also	
	include field trips or career fairs designed to increase students' knowledge of	
	career options, and the training and skills needed to obtain career goals.	
	Career readiness is divided into two activity sub-types: career exploration and	
	work readiness.	
Service Learning	Service initiatives designed to help students identify and proactively address a	
	solution. Service learning empowers students to make a positive contribution	
	to the world, increases social capital, improves self-efficacy, and increases	
	students' knowledge of problem-based employment opportunities.	
Individual Planning	Individual meetings between an adult and student to update goals that	
	support academic progress, high school graduation, and postsecondary	
	aspirations.	
Parent Engagement	Parent events and communication designed to increase parents' knowledge	
	and ability to support students as they plan for and navigate student goals.	
Professional	All cohort teachers are required to complete a GEAR UP PD initiative once per	
Development	year. Other grade-level teachers may participate in these efforts.	
Academic Support	Schools may use GEAR UP funding to start or supplement rigorous curriculum,	
	academic support, or test prep initiatives.	
Transition Services	GEAR UP Idaho is dedicated to providing support services to students through	
	their first year of college.	

Statewide Initiatives	GEAR UP Idaho is dedicated to the research and dissemination of best
	practices for the benefit of the program's school partners and all schools in
	Idaho.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of program activities or initiatives. Initiatives may change from year to year, but GEAR UP strives to provide support and funding to reduce barriers for implementation to schools and LEAs.

LEA AND SCHOOL LEVEL COMMITMENTS

LEAs shall commit to supporting GEAR UP Idaho and GEAR UP National Objectives:

- Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students. (Academic)
- Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education of GEAR UP students (Motivation)
- Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation, and financial planning. (Process)

LEAs shall also commit to adherence to federal laws, regulations, and cost principles associated with the GEAR UP program.

Finally, LEAs shall commit to the program implementation standards of GEAR UP Idaho as outlined in *Exhibit E*.

Exhibit E: GEAR UP Idaho Program Implementation Standards

PROGRAM INTEGRITY AND OPERATIONS

- LEAs will submit an updated program plan before being awarded an allocation for each school year.
- LEAs will ensure data is collected and submitted on time and with integrity.
- Schools will utilize GEAR UP funds in accordance with federal and state regulations and provide documentation of all purchases.
- Schools will ensure that the GEAR UP school coordinator has sufficient office space, a phone, a computer, and access to necessary work-related technology and resources.
- LEAs will provide resources and documentation to meet GEAR UP's federal \$1 for \$1 match requirement.
- LEAs will ensure GEAR UP funding is supplementing and not supplanting existing programs or school requirements.

SCHOOL CULTURE AND BUY-IN

- LEA superintendent and school principal will attend a virtual orientation prior to receiving funding the first year.
- School and LEA leadership will actively support and engage teachers in the implementation of career-connected classroom requirements.
- School leadership will attend an annual GEAR UP update webinar to build understanding of annual initiatives and priorities.

- School and LEA leadership will commit to providing a hiring update within two weeks of a school coordinator transition, and regularly until the position is hired.
- School will commit to a minimum of 18 hours of mandatory GEAR UP student instruction time exclusive of assessments, travel, and optional events.
- School leadership will commit the space necessary to provide services to students and develop a visual college and career culture within the school environment.
- School coordinator will assemble an advisory team and include these members in annual planning.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- GEAR UP school coordinator will attend one national or regional GEAR UP conference or a state-provided college and career conference (i.e. Waypoint) each year. Other conferences may be approved by GEAR UP state staff.
- GEAR UP school coordinator will attend the GEAR UP Idaho fall and spring meetings each year.
- New administrators or site coordinators will attend a GEAR UP training orientation within one month of hire.
- GEAR UP school coordinator will work with GEAR UP state staff to schedule one school site visit each year.
- School and LEA leadership will commit to designating time for at least two hours of staff PD time specific to GEAR UP related topics or program objectives, each year.

GEAR UP IDAHO APPLICATION DETAILS

IDAHO LEA AND SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Local Education Agency (LEA) must:

- LEA must locally certify their eligible middle school's Free and Reduced Lunch percentage by completing the FRL form in this packet and submitting accompanying documentation. Schools (serving 7th grade) must be 50% FRL or higher.
- Ensure the LEA's Sam.gov registration is in good standing.
- Agree to serve two cohorts from the 7th grade through the 12th grades. Project will run from 2025 through its completion in 2032.
- Select one qualifying feeder middle school and one high school. Only one high school (highest need) per LEA may be served by GEAR UP Idaho. An alternative associated school may also be included in the LEA's application.

APPLICANT SELECTION

In the situation where enough eligible LEAs submit a completed application and a competition is necessary, the IDE will proceed in hosting an objective review process to identify school partners. Applications will be ranked by score and awarded down the slate until all funding has been dedicated. Program administrators will work to award as many schools as possible up to our proposed student limit (5,500).

2. APPLICATION GUIDANCE

APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICATION TITLE	GEAR UP Idaho 4 – School Partner Application
APPLICATION LEAD	Jacque Deahl 650 W. State Street, 2 nd Floor Boise, ID 83702 208-332-6946 jdeahl@sde.idaho.gov
APPLICATION SUBMISSION	Completed proposals should be emailed to Jacque Deahl at ideahl@sde.idaho.gov by the deadline. Proposals must be received via email no later than 5:00pm MST on January 15, 2025.
APPLICATION INFORMATION WORKSHOPS	The same information will be presented in both workshops. December 4, 2025 @ 4pm MST/ 3pm PST https://idahosde.zoom.us/j/93871324175?pwd=npFm8Sv3VXK4LbugKE3KF1iYQaUrQ6.1&from=addon December 6, 2025 @ 9am MST/ 3pm PST https://idahosde.zoom.us/j/96718600662?pwd=aW0LMS30AAPkmhVttRChf1dK8wYdb7.1&from=addon
DEADLINE TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS	January 15, 2025 @ 12:00pm MST
RFP CLOSING DATE AND TIME	January 15, 2025 @ 5:00pm MST
INTENT TO AWARD DATE	Applicants will be updated on the status of their application no later than February 15, 2025. Successful applicants will be awarded conditionally based on the status of Idaho's federal application.
EXPECTED START DATE	Year one starts on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. School partners' allocations will be awarded through 2032 if sufficient progress towards program outcomes and compliance is maintained.

APPLICATION SCORING RUBRIC

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
Completed	Points awarded for complete application.	5 points
Application		
Narrative Questions	12 questions. Points awarded for thoroughness of	Up to 10 Points Per
	responses. The extent to which applicants cite	Question. 120 Points
	specific examples, research, or data in response.	Possible
	Responses limited to space provided.	
New Partner	New partners automatically receive 5 points.	5 Points
Competitive Priority	Existing Partners Only. The extent to which an	Up to 5 Points
	applicant describes the success achieved in a prior	Possible
	GEAR UP Idaho program. The extent to which the	
	applicant uses data to support these claims.	
Superintendent Letter	The extent to which the Superintendent describes	Up to 20 Points
of Support	practical examples of LEA support for the GEAR UP	Possible
	program and specific examples of mutual benefit	
	between the LEA and GEAR UP. There is no word	
	limit on this letter.	

Note: Maximum application score is 140 points.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Schools applying should <u>submit a single PDF including each of the components listed below.</u> Specific information regarding each of these requirements is included below.

- ✓ School Information Document
- ✓ Narrative Responses
- ✓ Competitive Priority Questions (Current School Partners Only)
- ✓ Superintendent Letter of Support
- ✓ FRL Form and Documentation
- ✓ Signature Page

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Complete the school information page to provide details about the schools that are applying to be part of the GEAR UP Idaho 4 program.

NARRATIVE RESPONSES

Complete the narrative responses. All prompts should be addressed thoroughly and provide specific examples of how the school or LEA will support the GEAR UP program and its initiatives. Responses should demonstrate expertise, citing school, state, or national data, when appropriate. Responses are limited to the space provided.

COMPETATIVE PRIORITY QUESTION

(For current school partners only) Describe the impact GEAR UP has had on the LEA and specific examples of how the school and LEA have contributed to the successful implementation of the program during the current grant cycle. Response should demonstrate lessons learned, citing school, state, or national data, when appropriate. Responses are limited to the space provided.

SUPERINTENDENT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Superintendent should contribute a signed letter of support including specific examples of how they, and the LEA will support the GEAR UP program and specific examples of the mutual benefit between the LEA and GEAR UP. There is no word limit on this letter.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH FORM AND DOCUMENTATION

Complete this form and include necessary supporting documentation.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Complete this form, ensure all required signature fields are completed.

3. GEAR UP IDAHO 4 – SCHOOL APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

SCHOOL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

LEA NAME	
LEA ADDRESS	
APPLICATION CONTACT NAME	
APPLICATION CONTACT EMAIL	
APPLICATION CONTACT PHONE	
SUPERINTENDENT NAME	
SUPERINTENDENT EMAIL	
ELIGIBLE MIDDLE SCHOOL NAME	
MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDRESS	
ANTICIPATED 25/26 7 th GRADE ENROLLMENT	
ANTICIPATED 26/27 7 th GRADE ENROLLMENT	
ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOL NAME	
HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS	
INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL? (Yes or No)	
ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL NAME (If applicable)	
ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS (If applicable)	
NUMBER OF 7 th GRADERS EXPECTED TO BE SERVED IN FIRST YEAR	
OTHER FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS	
NEW GEAR UP PARTNER (Yes or No)	

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

NARRATIVE 1				
DESCRIBE HOW G	EAR UP WOULD SUPP	ORT CURRENT SCHOO	L AND LEA INITIATIVES C	OR GOALS.
NARRATIVE 2				
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NARRATIVE 3 DESCRIBE HOW EXISTING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS MIGHT STRENGTHEN THE LEA'S GEAR UP PROGRAM. **NARRATIVE 4** DESCRIBE HOW THE LEA WOULD WORK TO SATISFY THE \$1 FOR \$1 FEDERAL GEAR UP MATCH REQUIREMENT.

NARRATIVE 5 DESCRIBE HOW THE LEA WILL LEVERAGE GEAR UP FUNDING IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STATE FUNDING OR RESOURCES TO MAXIMIZE PROGRAM IMPACT. **NARRATIVE 6** DESCRIBE OTHER COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES THAT ARE OFFERED IN THE LEA AND HOW THESE PROGRAMS MIGHT SUPPORT GEAR UP.

NARRATIVE 7 DESCRIBE ANY ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE IN THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS AND HOW GEAR UP WOULD BENEFIT FROM OR SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS. **NARRATIVE 8** DESCRIBE YOUR LEA'S IDEAL ADVISORY TEAM AND THE ASSETS THIS TEAM WOULD BRING TO THE **GEAR UP PROGRAM.**

NARRATIVE 9
DESCRIBE THE CULTURE OF THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS AND HOW GEAR UP MIGHT HELP IMPROVE OR
SUPPORT THE EXISTING CULTURE.
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NARRATIVE 11

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COMPETATIVE PRIORITY QUESTION (For current GEAR UP partners only)

DESCRIBE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LEA HAS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED GEAR UP IN PRIOR GRANT PHASES. PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH FORM

Middle/junior high schools in the GEAR UP Idaho program must be 50% FRL or higher to be eligible to participate. Use the form below to provide information on the participating schools' FRL data.

Free and Reduced Lunch Form		
LEA NAME:		
ELIGIBLE MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NAME:		
CURRENT SCHOOL FRL %:		
DOCUMENTATION	How will y	our LEA certify FRL eligibility? Check one of the clow.
	State FRL Report (https://apps2.sde.idaho.gov/cnpeligibility/Report)	
	CEP Acknowledgement	
	Submit 3 snapshots from the LEA's official database showing the school meets or exceeds the 50% FRL threshold. Snapshots must be taken from the 2024-2025 middle school data (November through January). No student data should be included in these snapshots.	
*Include appropriate documentation in final application submission PDF.		
CERTIFIER'S NAME:		
CERTIFIER'S SIGNATURE:		
SIGNATURE DATE:		

SIGNATURE PAGE

By signing this page, entities agree that they have read the GEAR UP Idaho application guidance and, if selected, believe in good faith that the LEA and listed schools have the capacity to comply with and implement the requirements of the GEAR UP Idaho program.

APPLICATION PREPARER NAME:	
APPLICATION PREPARER SIGNATURE:	
SIGNATURE DATE:	
MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR NAME:	
MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE:	
SIGNATURE DATE:	
HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR NAME:	
HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE:	
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