GEAR UP for Student Success—Taking a Holistic Approach to Creating College-Bound Students
Demographics

- Total Students Served: 439,638
- 97% Hispanic
- 85% Economically Disadvantaged
- 37% Limited English Proficient
- 3% Migrant
REGION ONE ESC
Office of College, Career and Life Readiness
Vision
Office of College, Career and Life Readiness

All Region One students will attain their unique potential to enhance their quality of life.
Mission

The Office of College, Career and Life Readiness empowers Region One students to make informed decisions in the areas of college readiness, career exploration, and lifelong learning through collaborative partnerships with families, educators, and community members.
Additional leadership roles

South Texas Literacy Coalition
Advisory Board Member

The Texas Effective Advising Framework Coalition
Steering Committee Member

Texas GEAR UP Coalition
Co-Chair

The Higher Education Coordinating Board
Data Fellow

Norma Ortiz McCormick
Director
Our students are the reason we exist

How do we continue to “dig deeper” and find out what they need?

How do we help students like me who did not have the financial supports and resources?

How can we find the “diamonds in the rough” and provide them opportunity?

How do we help those who are quiet and do not have a voice yet?
Results for Ready, Set, College Partnership Grant from 2011-2017

Final report:
67% College Matriculation for Fall of 2017/2018 (included one year of No Cost Extension efforts to recover students)

College Matriculation State total was 50% in 2017 and 46% in 2018

Hispanic Students State total was 46% in 2017 and 45% in 2018
Region One ESC OCCLR

School Districts

Private Partners

Community Partners

IHEs

19+ population
Region One GEAR UP Grants

1999–2006
Right Choices for Youth Partnership
6,000 students

2005–2011
Bridges to the Future Partnership
8,400 students

2011–2017
Ready, Set, College! Partnership
10,500 students

2018–2025
College Ready, Career Set!
5,675 students

2018–2025
College Now-Career Connected!
8,226 students
Region One GEAR UP Grants

College Ready, Career Set! is a Partnership between:

• Region One ESC
• 25 middle schools
• 17 high schools
• 17 school districts
• Local Higher Education Institutions
• Community organizations and private institutions

College Now – Career Connected! is a Partnership between:

• Region One ESC
• 30 middle schools
• 20 high schools
• 12 school districts
• Local Higher Education Institutions
• Community organizations and private institutions
“Team work makes the dream work!”

JOHN MAXWELL

How can you work together, support each other and continue to create a safety net for our students?
Doing What’s Right for Those We Serve

50% Rural

50%+ first generation college students
Relationships with all Stakeholders is Instrumental to the Work We Do
Our partnership between Region One ESC and ACT has a span of 10 years working together to create solutions in the area of Social Emotional Learning through a partnership that utilizes data to address the needs of students.

Work together to address areas of need by providing PD-example SEL Webinar Series

Co-Present at local, state and national conferences to share lessons learned
Continue to work together to create solutions for educators, students and families

OUR PARTNERSHIP
Contact Information

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Tennessee/ACT Partnership

- The TN Department of Education provides every junior in Tennessee the opportunity to take the ACT for free and in-school during a regular school day each spring. Approximately, 95 percent of the juniors in Tennessee (62,000 students) participate in this test.

- In order to raise the overall composite ACT score in Tennessee, the TN Department of Education started offering a free in-school ACT retake to seniors in Tennessee in the fall of their senior year. 85% of the seniors typically participate in the retake.

- Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, in order to earn a regular diploma, students enrolled in a Tennessee public school in their junior year of high school must complete the ACT or SAT.

- Although the statewide composite ACT score initially dropped, more students in TN are taking the ACT and creating clearer pathways to postsecondary education. This has also created an emphasis on equity in college and career readiness.
GEAR UP TN/ACT Partnership

ACT Curricular Alignment Workshops

- ACT provided the 8th and 9th grade faculty in each GEAR UP TN school with “Begin with the End in Mind” ACT Curricular Alignment Workshops during the spring, summer, and early fall of 2019.

- The “Begin with the End in Mind” ACT Curricular Alignment Workshops provided the 8th and 9th grade faculty members in each school with a three-hour training focused on using the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards to anchor curriculum. In these workshops, participants studied the test specifications to understand the content assessed by the ACT, analyzed key performance data to connect ACT scores with College and Career Readiness Standards, and identified connections between the ACT College and Career readiness standards and their local standards and curricula.
GEAR UP TN/ACT Partnership - PreACT

This school year our GEAR UP TN cohort (sophomores) had the opportunity to take the PreACT at their schools between October 2020 and January 2021. 2600 GEAR UP students took the PreACT across 16 different high schools across the state.

The PreACT is designed to predict performance on the ACT, but it can also be used to help students prepare for the ACT and engage in planning for college and careers.

Immediate PreACT Outcomes:

- Advising and counseling with each student and their families about their postsecondary plans, goals, timelines, and next steps.
- Teachers reviewed PreACT reports to help them make adjustments in what and how they teach. Equity gaps were identified based upon aggregate scores and plans were made to address these issues.
- Reports were used for future course placement, tutoring, expanding dual enrollment opportunities, and to revise future ACT Prep courses.
Thank you!