

Eligible GEAR UP Sites

GEAR UP Sites	Schools Served
ACE GEAR UP	Thurgood Marshall MS Lake Clifton/Eastern HS
Baltimore City Public School System	Lombard MS Rognel Heights MS Guilford MS Digital Harbor HS Walbrook HS Patterson HS
Baltimore County Public School System	Dundalk MS Lansdowne MS Dundalk HS Lansdowne HS
First Generation College Bound	Dwight D. Eisenhower MS Martin Luther King, Jr. MS Laurel HS
Garrett County Public School System	Northern Garrett MS Southern Garrett MS Northern Garrett HS Southern Garrett HS
Prince George's County Public School System	G. Gardner Shugart MS Benjamin Stoddert MS Potomac HS
Somerset County Public School System	Greenwood MS Woodson MS Crisfield HS Washington HS
Southern Maryland	Calvert MS Piccowaxen MS Esperanza MS Spring Ridge MS Calvert HS La Plata HS Great Mills HS
Western Maryland	Braddock MS West Frederick MS E. Russell Hicks MS Allegany HS Frederick HS South Hagerstown HS

GEAR UP



Where to Find Additional Financial Aid Information

- The Maryland Higher Education Commission's **Office of Student Financial Assistance** (OSFA) annually awards over \$75 million in financial aid to students. Applications for scholarships and additional information are available from OSFA by calling 410-260-4565 or 1-800-974-1024 (TTY 1-800-735-2258) or by viewing **www.mhec.state.md.us**. The Web site also includes information on every Maryland college and links to additional information.
- FAFSA on the Web: www.fafsa.ed.gov/ This form can be completed online or the forms can be printed from the Internet.
- Federal Student Financial Aid Information Center 1-800-4FED-AID; see also www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students/ for general information on federal student aid.
- U.S. Department of Education (2003). *The Student Guide: 2003-2004*. www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html
- FastWeb lists thousands of private scholarships: www.fastweb.com.
- A comprehensive site for financial aid is www.finaid.org.



MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
839 Bestgate Road, Suite 400
Annapolis, MD 21401-3013
www.mhec.state.md.us
(410) 260-4565

Robert L. Erlich, Jr., Governor

Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor

MARYLAND GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP

www.mhec.state.md.us
www.towson.edu/coe/gearup/

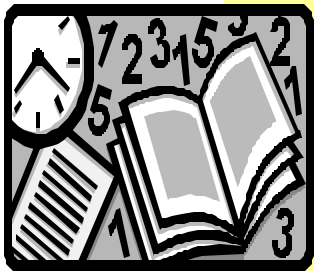
GEAR UP Scholarships

PLAN TO APPLY!

GEAR UP scholarships may help pay for your child's college education. If your child participated in GEAR UP activities, he or she may be eligible for GEAR UP scholarship funds. The GEAR UP scholarship money will supplement financial assistance your child receives from the three main sources of student aid—the federal government, the state government, and the college.

A portion of the federal GEAR UP state grant to Maryland has been reserved for scholarships for students who participate in GEAR UP activities. It is anticipated that **\$3 million** will be available for scholarships to supplement the financial aid packages of those students who attend college.

Application forms will be available from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) during students' senior year of high school in 2006. By March 1, 2006, students should apply for the GEAR UP scholarship and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Priority consideration will be given to students who file their FAFSA by March 1.



Calculation of GEAR UP Scholarship

The GEAR UP scholarship is calculated and awarded **after** other financial assistance has been awarded, including:

- Pell Grant;
- Maryland State aid (e.g., the Guaranteed Access Grant, the Educational Assistance Grant, Distinguished Scholars, etc.);
- Institutional assistance; and
- Any private scholarships or grants.

The scholarship is awarded **before** federal Work Study and student loans. The sum of all financial awards cannot exceed the college's cost of attendance (that is, tuition, books, room and board, and other items as defined by the college or university).

A student's GEAR UP scholarship award amount will be determined after his or her college or university financial aid package has been completed. The amount of the award will depend on several factors, including the following:



- 1) How many students apply each year of the six years for which the money is available (2006-2012);
- 2) The student's financial need and the total financial need of all eligible applicants;
- 3) How much money remains in the scholarship fund; and
- 4) Other factors, such as changes to the federal guidelines.

Renewal

Students apply to MHEC **each year** to renew the award. Students may receive an award up to four years for full-time attendance and up to six years for part-time attendance, as long as the student maintains satisfactory academic progress.

Student Eligibility

To be eligible for a GEAR UP scholarship, a student must:

- Have participated in GEAR UP at least one year (6th-12th grades) through one of the state grant GEAR UP sites and the sites' participating schools;
- Be a Maryland resident or the dependent of parents who are Maryland residents;
- Be less than 22 years of age at the time of the first scholarship award;
- Receive a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment full-time or part-time in an undergraduate institution of higher education that awards associate and/or baccalaureate degrees; and
- File a FAFSA and a Maryland GEAR UP scholarship application.