



Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) helps students at certain Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) prepare for school, college, and explore career options. The goal of this program is to provide critical early intervention programming to increase access to higher education and workforce development opportunities.

We would like to find out how the program is working in schools and how it can better serve your child(ren). As a parent or guardian of a student in GEAR UP, we would like your consent in having your child(ren) participate in the program, which will take place through the 2022-2026 school years.

We will collect information from DPSCD and the Michigan Department of Education, such as basic student information and demographics, attendance, grades, and test scores. All data received will be kept confidential. We will not share, except to the Michigan Department of Education individual student data.

Please **return this form to the main office if you approve of your child’s participation in GEAR UP and DPSCD’s release of certain of your child’s educational records to EMU.** The EMU team will maintain the data up to six (6) months after the program has been finalized and the final evaluation report submitted to DPSCD. After this time, EMU will destroy and delete the data.

For more information regarding GEAR UP, please contact me at 734.487.4719. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ready, Project Coordinator  
GEAR UP

**Please complete this form and return it to the main office at your child’s school. Please make sure you select an option for participation and for data releasing.**

- YES, I approve of my child’s participation in GEAR UP and DPSCD’s release of my child’s data to Eastern Michigan University in connection with this program.
- NO, I do NOT approve – My child may not participate in GEAR UP and none of my child’s DPSCD data should be released to Eastern Michigan University in connection with this program.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

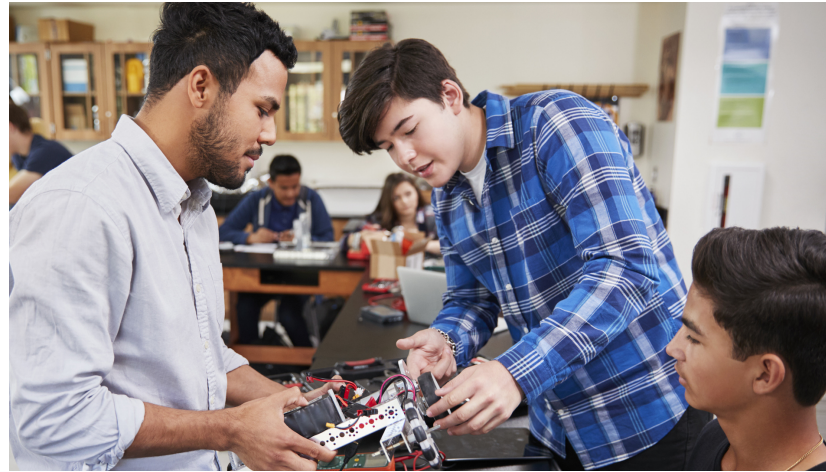
Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) is a federally funded program from the United States Department of Education designed to increase the number of underserved students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The Michigan GEAR UP Program partners with Michigan's 15 public universities, and valuable external community partners to provide early intervention services and a scholarship component for our students. We support middle and high schools in their efforts to set high academic expectations, promote early awareness of college opportunities, and engage students in college and career planning.

GEAR UP is also supported by the King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Initiative College Day Program. We share the common goal of improving educational access, retention, and graduation for Michigan's student citizens. By leveraging existing resources and further strengthening educational programs, we collaborate with other college access programs such as Michigan College Access Network (MCAN), Michigan Campus Compact (MCC), Michigan Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (MiSTEM), and TRIO to facilitate enrollment of eligible participants across the range of programs sharing the common goal of college access and success. Through increasing P-20 collaboration and college access preparation, we will maximize available resources and increase the number of students who are able to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.



## WHAT IS GEAR UP?

GEAR UP is designed to serve a cohort of students, from target schools, beginning in the seventh grade and following the cohort (class of 2026) throughout high school and their first year of college.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any student enrolled at target schools can participate in GEAR UP activities (DPSCD students must submit a parental consent form).

## IS GEAR UP FREE?

Yes! GEAR UP is completely free.

## WHAT WE DO

Dedicated to supporting underserved students by providing critical early intervention programming to improve access to higher education and create a college-going culture through services such as:

- Academic Support
- Career Exploration
- College Visits
- Family Engagement
- Financial Literacy
- Intervention Services
- Mentoring
- Summer Opportunities for Students

## Contact Information

Daniel Ready • Project Coordinator • [dready@emich.edu](mailto:dready@emich.edu) • [EMICH.EDU/GEARUP](http://EMICH.EDU/GEARUP)  
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