



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

OCTOBER

FOR PARENTS OF 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

## THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL

Ninth and tenth grade are pivotal years for students both academically and socially. The transition from middle school can be challenging – more rigorous classes with higher stakes, new social pressures, changing friend groups, and a desire to assert independence and become their own person.

Supporting your student through these changes is critical: students who fail more than one core class in their freshman year are more likely to drop out of high school without graduating.

Ways to beat the beginning high school blues include going to school (if you're not in class, you can't learn!), getting involved in school activities and clubs, and having older students and adults serve as mentors.

Source: [Practical Leadership](#)



**what matters to teenagers:**  
friends, fun, fitting in



**what matters to schools:**  
attendance, grades, activities

### DID YOU KNOW?

A survey of students going into ninth grade found they want both peer and adult mentors to help with the transition to high school.

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** Your student can't get into a selective college if she or he did poorly in ninth and tenth grade.

**REALITY:** Colleges look for improvement in performance as a sign that your student can and will do the work. In fact, a vast improvement as a junior and senior indicates to a college that a student has settled down and is serious about school. However, your student shouldn't expect to catch up for three poor years in one good semester as a senior.

Source: [pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm](http://pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm)

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- Make sure your student goes to school and to all classes.** Attendance is very important – if she isn't in school, she can't learn.
- Encourage your student to do well in school.** Let him know that you expect good grades, and that you expect him to take challenging classes. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected with what she is doing in school.
- Encourage your student to get involved.** Suggest sports, school clubs, volunteer opportunities, or part-time jobs that reflect her interests.
- Talk to teachers and staff.** Connect with the school during conferences, open houses, school activities and events or just because. Consider volunteering at the school or chaperone a field trip.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

Visit [oregongearup.org](http://oregongearup.org) to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

**COLLEGE.** It's not a dream, it's a plan.