



June 28, 2018

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Request for Competitive Letters of Interest for New GEAR UP Texas Cohort

The Texas Education Agency is pleased to announce a grant opportunity for local education agencies to participate in Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). These grants are scheduled to be awarded for implementation in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year. Selected grantees will be awarded up to \$350,000 the first year;

in seventh grade through graduation from high school. Grantees will be required to carry out activities aligned to each of five strategies:

- 1) **Strategy 1: Increase Academic Rigor** - Facilitate an increase in access to, perceived value of, and student success in academically rigorous courses through extensive professional development for teachers, counselors, and administrators, and targeted tutoring for students.
- 2) **Strategy 2: Prepare Middle School Students** - Empower students with pathway information early on through individualized college and career advising in middle school and adoption of a high-quality, TEKS-aligned career exploration course.
- 3) **Strategy 3: Expand College and Career Advising and Resources for High School Students** - Mitigate the effects of high student-to-counselor ratios and provide robust, individualized college and career advising through the adoption of a Near Peer Advising model in GEAR UP high schools.
- 4) **Strategy 4: Leverage Technology**

partners that support student achievement and offer opportunities for career exploration.

