

Basic Guidelines for Funding Weekly Reader Magazines

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR UP, is a grant program designed to “increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education” (ed.gov). The program also calls for all students involved to “receive information and knowledge about post-secondary options and financial aid, and ... receive assistance in taking steps towards admission” (FY 2006 application).

The program’s three objectives for GEAR UP projects are:

- 1.) Increase the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.
- 2.) Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.
- 3.) Increase GEAR UP students’ and their families’ post-secondary education options, preparation and financing. (FY 2006 application)

Weekly Reader Publishing helps support the mission and goals of GEAR UP by providing six engaging nonfiction magazines for middle and high school students.

Read on to find out how Weekly Reader magazines can be used to support the requirements of GEAR UP grants.

1.) “Many students never receive a college education, some because they lack the preparation for college and others because they lack the financial resources, and many people entering the work force are not prepared for the world of work.” (ed.gov)

→ *Career World*

- General job seeking and retention advice for teens
- Job market trends, how to get hired, what jobs pay
- Personal financial topics
- Developing an application, résumé
- Magazine also meets the six National Career Development Standards

2.) GEAR UP grants can be used in a variety of ways to support counseling—for example, funds can be used for college fairs, purchasing or printing information kits, and underwriting visits to college campuses. In short, GEAR UP funds can support nearly any reasonable approach to inform and counsel students on what they must do to prepare for college.” (FY 2006 application)

→ *Career World*

- College visit checklists
- Choosing a major
- What courses are needed for certain careers

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3.) Strengthening subject matter knowledge and teaching skills among classroom teachers is integral to GEAR UP's mission of fostering long-term sustainable school-wide improvements. Funds may be used for training, courses, materials, textbooks, and other professional resources to strengthen classroom instruction." (FY 2006 application)

Current Science, Current Health 1 & 2, Current Events, Teen Newsweek, Know Your World Extra, Career World

- Promote literacy
- All publications include a Teachers' Guide containing reproducible skills builders, background information, teaching tips, correlations to national standards, and Web links.
- Yearly planning calendars are provided to allow teachers to schedule thematic studies.
- Award-winning Web site provides additional news links, activities, and resources for teachers and students.

4.) GEAR UP funds can be used to extend the school day and week by providing teachers, classrooms, and materials for after school programs. (FY 2006 application)

Current Science, Current Health 1 & 2, Current Events, Teen Newsweek, Know Your World Extra

- Each magazine can be useful in an after school setting for extra help in that curriculum, i.e., *Current Science* and *CH 1 & 2* for health and science; *Current Events* and *Teen Newsweek* for social studies and language arts; and *Know Your World Extra* for students below reading level.
- Teacher's Guides include related activities and/or cross curricular connections to extend the lesson.
- *Current Events* and *Teen Newsweek* print student essays and oral history projects.

5.) GEAR UP focuses on academically challenging courses in math and science. "Students who took either no science courses or only a general science course not only started with lower average scores in eighth grade, but also gained significantly less than those students who took a biology course plus either chemistry or physics." (USDOED/NCES, 1995)

Current Science

- Each issue of the magazine covers every area of the science curriculum:
 - Earth Science
 - Life Science
 - Physical Science
 - Plus, health and technology

The GEAR UP state grant program must also include an early intervention component. Examples of activities that may help satisfy the requirements of an early intervention component are:

- Ensuring student access to rigorous sources that prepare them for college. *Career World, Current Science, Current Health 1 & 2, Current Events, Teen Newsweek, Know Your World Extra, READ, Writing*
- Providing school activities that promote student achievement and college preparation. *Career World, Current Science, Current Health 1 & 2, Current Events, Teen Newsweek, Know Your World Extra, READ, Writing*
- Providing services that are especially designed for limited English-proficient students. *Know Your World Extra*

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Plus, Weekly Reader's *Career World* magazine meets the six National Career Development Standards:

- 1.) Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.
- 2.) Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide variety of substantial post-secondary options, including college.
- 3.) Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work, and to life at home and in the community.
- 4.) Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed decisions.
- 5.) Students will employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction.
- 6.) Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work.

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