2026-2033
GEAR UP 4 The Future (GU4TH)

Background

- DeSoto ISD received a new discretionary GEAR UP award from the U.S. Department of Education (PR/Award P334A260408).
- GEAR UP 4 The Future (GU4TH) is a new federal award and is separate from the district's existing College DRIVEN and NextGEN GEAR UP grants.
- The program will support a new student cohort through academic, college and career readiness, postsecondary planning, and family supports.
- Year 1 budget period: October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027; performance period extends through September 30, 2033.
- Board action will formally accept the current award and authorize district implementation and budget setup.

Funding & Fiscal Structure

- Current Year 1 federal award: $1,073,600.
- Estimated seven-year federal value is $7,495,236 if annual continuation awards are approved by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Only the current $1,073,600 award is presently authorized; future-year amounts remain subject to annual federal continuation requirements.
- The award will be administered in Fund 274 and is subject to federal grant requirements, EDGAR, and applicable 2 CFR Part 200 requirements.
- The grant carries a restricted indirect cost rate of 8%.

Benefits (Key Outcomes)

- Expands sustained academic and postsecondary readiness support for a new cohort of DeSoto scholars.
- Strengthens college, career, and military readiness through tutoring, advising, and structured postsecondary planning.
- Provides families with financial aid, college access, and postsecondary navigation support.
- Creates a multi-year support structure that follows students through key transition points toward graduation and postsecondary enrollment.
- Adds significant federal resources to support student outcomes without shifting the program cost to the General Fund.



Program Components

- Academic support, tutoring, and progress monitoring for the identified GEAR UP cohort.
- College and career readiness activities, including advising, exposure, and postsecondary planning.
- Family engagement and financial literacy / financial aid support.
- Campus-based coordination and direct student support through GEAR UP staff.
- Data collection, grant reporting, implementation monitoring, and required federal documentation.
- Long-term cohort support across the seven-year performance period, subject to annual continuation funding.

Staffing & Compensation Structure

- The launch structure includes five roles: Project Director, College & Career Readiness Coordinator, Family & Financial Advocate, (3)Site Coordinators, and Program Assistant.
- Four new grant-funded positions are included in the current launch plan; the Project Director role is identified in the federal award.
- All GEAR UP 4 compensation will follow the current Board-approved DeSoto ISD Compensation Manual and the district's assigned pay grades and ranges.
- A separate historical or grant-specific pay structure will not be used for GEAR UP 4 position placement.
- Human Resources will administer salary placement consistent with Board-approved compensation practices, job qualifications, and available grant funding.



End Goals & Board Action

- Accept the $1,073,600 Year 1 GEAR UP 4 The Future federal award.
- Authorize district budget setup, program implementation, and grant administration for the October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027 budget period.
- Support launch of the new cohort and aligned academic, college/career readiness, family, and postsecondary services.
- Confirm that grant-funded staffing will be administered under the Board-approved district compensation structure and normal HR approval processes.
- Future continuation funding will remain subject to annual federal approval and applicable district acceptance/budget procedures.



Thank you!

