

Item of Information: Gaining Early Awareness Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
(GEAR UP) Grant with The University of Texas at Austin

1. Background:

The Gaining Early Awareness of Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) State Grant is a seven-year federal initiative designed to increase early college awareness, readiness, and success for historically underrepresented students. The grant follows a cohort of students starting in 7th grade through their first year of postsecondary education.

2. Process:

The Southwest Independent School District partnered with the Institute of Public School Initiatives at The University of Texas at Austin, along with other districts across Texas to write the federal GEAR UP grant. The grant was awarded in October of 2024 with expectations to implement immediately; SWISD's portion of the award is approximately \$2,045,400 over seven years. We are currently in year one of seven for this grant award.

3. Fiscal Impact:

This is a match grant and the match provided by the district will come from local funding sources and will almost entirely be made through in-kind funds.

4. Recommendation:

Item of Information

5. Required:

N/A