

GEAR UP locations & advisors

GEAR UP is located in **Room #156 at East Boston High School** (86 White Street, East Boston, MA 02128) and **Room #322 at Mario Umana Academy** (312 Border Street, Boston, MA 02128).

To apply, students and parents should talk to a **GEAR UP Education Advisor** at their school:



Sharon Lee
617_823_4528;
slee@asa.org



Tanner Senter
617_816_0123;
tsenter@asa.org



Stephany Velasco
617_785_0854;
svelasco@asa.org



Mario Umana Academy
Maria Paredes
857_324_3255;
mparedes@asa.org

For partnership opportunities, please contact:

Grace Ajayi, GEAR UP Program Manager, at 617_521_6286 or gajayi@asa.org, or **Luis Cabral**, GEAR UP Program Supervisor, at 617_833_1685 or lcabral@asa.org.

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Due to federal guidelines, parental information is required for the completed application. Eligibility criteria is established by the U.S. Department of Education.



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American Student Assistance® (ASA) works with the statewide GEAR UP program to support Mario Umana Academy and East Boston High School students in graduating from high school and obtaining a higher education credential.

Navigating the road to college and career after high school can be hard, especially if you are just beginning your journey or are unsure where to seek assistance. GEAR UP can give you a head start on planning your next step through activities and workshops that focus on college and career readiness, financial aid, standardized testing, and scholarship opportunities.

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WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO YOU?

How we work with you

GEAR UP students receive one-on-one advising to help them succeed in school and plan for college and career. Program participants can take advantage of services including:

College and career admissions assistance

Scholarship opportunities

Financial aid application assistance

Career exploration activities

Interactive classroom workshops

Personal responsibility skills development

Fee waivers

Skill-building activities

Academic and attendance intervention and support

Post-secondary preparation

College tours and information sessions

High school choice

**All services are free of charge.*

Who may participate?

7th and 8th grade students from Mario Umana Academy and high school students from East Boston High School are eligible to apply for the GEAR UP program.

The application process includes:

1. Meeting with a GEAR UP Advisor
2. Completing the GEAR UP application with a family member

When your application is complete, you and your advisor will meet throughout the school year to discuss your goals, action steps, and opportunities such as field trips and internships.

Participants may be eligible to receive the GEAR UP Scholarship, a last-dollar award, upon enrolling in an accredited, post-secondary institution of higher education in Massachusetts.



96%
of our students successfully graduated high school or progressed to the next grade level.

Our job is to make sure YOU have every opportunity to succeed in life.

“GEAR UP genuinely wants to see students prosper... It was touching for GEAR UP to reach out and create workshops for not only students, but also their families.”

–Student, East Boston High School

Get in on the fun!

We host multiple events each year designed to help bring students together. Some of our previous events include:

College and career information night

College and career fairs

Financial aid night

Application Day celebration

SAT prep campaign

Boston National College Fair

Decision Month celebrations

What’s Your Plan Fair

Student leadership opportunities

Field trips to experience:

- Colleges
- Careers
- Trade & vocational programs
- Gap-year programs
- Overnight and out-of-state college, career, and cultural trips

Families get involved too!

Students and their families can learn together. Attend workshops to receive assistance in completing college and financial aid applications, help in choosing a school, and access to resources.



Boston GEAR UP and Talent Search students participating in a trip to Washington DC to explore colleges, careers, and cultures.

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