In August 2015, Wichita State was awarded a seven-year statewide GEAR UP grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU) serves students in foster care and state custody. Providing academic assistance to this target population is central to KKGU’s mission for high school students in preparation for postsecondary education.

Six service regions provide support services and summer programming. KKGU goals include academically supporting students through in-school and after-school programming. College and career exploration, college tours and financial literacy activities are designed to educate foster families on the requirements for postsecondary education.

The KKGU summer programs help students choose careers while exploring the educational requirements of those careers. KKGU also awards financial need-based scholarships to program students. Scholarships are used as incentives to improve academic performance, high school graduation rates and efforts towards setting career goals.

Homework Assistance Program (HAP)
Advanced academic performance and postsecondary readiness is the focus of HAP. HAP connects students with certified teachers and collegiate tutors who provide tutoring and homework assistance to eligible Wichita Public Schools students in grades 6-12. Additionally, HAP provides ACT, financial literacy workshops on a monthly basis.

Phil Jones, Richard Schwasinger, Chris Bryant, Jessica Carter, Joe Gonzales, Erich Washausen, Rachel Rhoades, Stephanie Andrews, Jim Fryer, Steve Hammond, Corinne Nilsen (director), Regina Rose, Derek Koenigsdorf, Racquel Houston, Karen McNamee, Barbara Kae, Chris McDonald, Torisha Shorte, Diana Carbajal, Kelli Ben, Cathy Crist, Morgan Seaman, Melanie Dehning, Silvia Morales, Brenda Armstrong, Lori Woods, Beth Randall, Traci Shepherd, Abby McCalmont, Shauntelle Thompson

2016-2017 Highlights

2,500 Students Served
Serves Middle and High School Students
138 Students Admitted to Postsecondary Institutions
$1,526,874 Awarded Scholarships

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