

Request for Proposals

Title: Supporting Postsecondary Readiness for 9th Grade Students Across Alabama

Issue Date: October 16, 2025

Contact Information:

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Introduction:

GEAR UP Achieve, an initiative led by Auburn University, is dedicated to expanding access to higher education and improving academic outcomes for low-income and first-generation students. The program serves approximately 6,500 students across seven regions in Alabama, equipping them with the knowledge, resources, and support needed to successfully enroll in and complete postsecondary education (PSE). Through targeted services, strategic partnerships, and sustained academic engagement, GEAR UP Achieve seeks to accomplish the following core goals:

1. Provide access to rigorous coursework that prepares students for PSE.
2. Assist students in completing critical steps for PSE.
3. Implement an advising program to support PSE aspirations.
4. Increase funding awareness and help navigate financial aid.

More information can be found at <https://auburn.edu/academic/gearup/>.

Requested Services:

We invite qualified contractors and vendors to submit proposals to provide high-quality educational programming for 9th-grade students, their families, educators, and communities across seven regions in Alabama. Proposed services should be strategically designed to advance the overarching mission of GEAR UP Achieve—empowering students to access and succeed in PSE. Contracts will be awarded for services valued at up to \$75,000.

We are interested in services that include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Support
 - Literacy and math tutoring
 - STEM/STEAM workshops
 - Coding and innovation
- College & Career Readiness
 - College preparation
 - ACT test prep, FAFSA, dual enrollment workshops
- Family & Educator Engagement
 - Health/wellness & financial literacy workshops
 - Professional development aligned with ALSDE standards.
- Student Engagement & Motivation
 - Mentoring programs
 - Motivational speaking



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Submission Requirements:

Submit proposals to gearup@auburn.edu in a PDF or Word format by 11:59 PM CST on 11/14/2025.

Proposals should include the following information:

1. Company/Organization Name
2. Contact Information
3. Experience and Qualifications
4. Description of Services Offered
5. Implementation plan
6. Proposed Budget (not to exceed \$75,000)
7. Documentation of commitment to match funding
8. References from previous clients

Evaluation Criteria:

- Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Experience and qualifications of the vendor
- Alignment of proposed services with program goals
- Cost-effectiveness and scalability of the proposal
- Demonstrated ability to engage target populations
- Clarity and feasibility of the implementation plan

Timeline Overview:

- RFP Release Date: October 16, 2025
- Proposal Submission Deadline: November 14, 2025
- Award Notification: December 5, 2025
- Service Dates: January – September 2026