



The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education operates three federal college access programs: GEAR UP, Educational Talent Search, and Education Opportunity Center. These programs help first-generation and low-income students understand and access postsecondary opportunities.

	Population Served	Services Provided
Montana GEAR UP	<p>Direct service to ~4,400 students annually at 12 middle and high-school districts statewide. Districts are eligible to participate if they have high shares of low-income, first generation, rural or indigenous students. All students in recipient districts can receive program supports.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Libby 2. Thompson falls 3. St. Regis 4. Superior 5. Arlee 6. St. Ignatius 7. Browning 8. Rocky Boy 9. Box Elder 10. Pryor 11. Hardin 12. Lodge Grass 	<p><u>District Services</u> Supports district staff who provide academic support in math and writing, college and career planning, and financial aid awareness programming. Students participating in the program are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship.</p> <p><u>Statewide Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA Completion programming through Apply Montana • Support for the 1-2-Free Dual Enrollment Program • The MUS College Access Arc of Events
Educational Talent Search	<p>Direct service to ~1,300 students annually in four service regions. Students may receive educational talent search services if they are first in their family to attend college, are free and reduced-price lunch eligible, or otherwise demonstrate financial need to fund college.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blackfeet – Browning and Heart Butte Public Schools 2. Crow – Hardin and Lodge Grass Public Schools 3. Flathead – Polson, Ronan, and St. Ignatius Public Schools. Two Eagle River School. 4. Great Falls – Paris Gibson, CMR HS, Great Falls HS, North MS, East MS 	<p>Talent Search supports six pre-college advisors, who provide educational tutoring, guidance on middle and high school course selection, career counseling, financial aid resources, college and scholarship information. Participants can attend college tours, educational field trips and learn about different career opportunities.</p>
Education Opportunity Center	<p>Direct service to ~850 clients across 11 southwestern Montana counties. Provides services to adult learners, youth aging out of foster care, current or retired military personnel, and low-income or first-generation college students.</p>	<p>College application and financial aid counseling, career workshops, connection to local resources, including adult and vocational education, and academic supports like tutoring.</p>

