

# Getting Ready to ASPIRE

Mentoring program to help middle school students plan for education and training beyond high school

**Getting Ready to ASPIRE** is an exciting new addition to ASPIRE (Access to Student assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone) administered by the Oregon Student Access Commission and funded as a pilot program by GEAR UP through the U.S. Department of Education. ASPIRE is the state of Oregon's official mentoring program to help students plan for education and training beyond high school.

**Getting Ready to ASPIRE** is a group mentoring pilot project that introduces middle school students and their families to planning for training and education beyond high school. The program's curriculum is designed to fit within the site's existing program. Volunteers, who are screened and trained, and the site staff will deliver the components of the program to classes or assemblies on a monthly basis. Site staff will be present at all times. The curriculum includes career exploration; college financial planning; high school graduation requirements and course rigor; and the importance of extracurricular and community activities. Each training component is freestanding to make the delivery schedule more flexible.

**Benefits** of Getting Ready to ASPIRE include the early introduction of curriculum that can help middle school students plan their high school career and get ready to aspire to college and training once they graduate. The curriculum will introduce the importance of academic rigor, extracurricular activities and good grades to students beginning in 6th grade and excite students about their options beyond high school.

**INTERESTED SITES** are encouraged to apply to become a Getting Ready to ASPIRE program.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** contact Cheryl Mathews, Special Projects Coordinator at [Cheryl.a.mathews@state.or.us](mailto:Cheryl.a.mathews@state.or.us) or (800) 452-8807, ext. 7379.

Oregon Student  
Access Commission

FACT SHEET

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## Getting Ready to ASPIRE pilot sites:

- Baker Middle School
- Duniway Middle School
- Elkton Middle School
- Gresham-Barlow We Academy
- Kids Unlimited
- La Pine Middle School
- L.E.A.F.
- McKenzie
- Patton Middle School
- Sage Community School
- St. Helens Middle School
- Step It Up
- Triangle Lake Charter School

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