

## COLLEGE RESOURCE TOOL BOX

GEAR UP is proud to provide our parents with the ***College Resource Tool Box***. The College Resource Tool Box, may also be referred to as “The Box,” is a portable file box in which families can store their student’s college planning and preparation materials.

**History** “The Box” was created from a combination of an idea from the Oakville Parent Resource Group and GEAR UP staff to support families preparing for college early. As students received more college preparation information from GEAR UP, Educational Specialists realized that the students should have a place to store all their information.

When given out, the “The Box” is presented to students and parent(s) as a starter kit. “The Box” is set up with several hanging files and manila folders, labeled to assist in organizing the college preparation information the students receive. GEAR UP includes informational materials we feel are best to get families started in the college planning process.

Please note the following suggestions:

- ❖ Have students place all high school and college information in the tool box immediately upon receiving it (i.e. graduation and financial aid information, report cards, portfolio, , college applications and brochures, and college testing information, etc.)
- ❖ Keep “The Box” in a location in the home which is easily accessible to the student and parent.
- ❖ Periodically review the material, discarding duplicated and information no longer needed.
- ❖ Set time to review and discuss the information with your student.

## The College Resource Toolbox Content List

- 1) **First in the Family: Advice About College from First-Generation Students (book)**
- 2) **GEAR UP Information** – (hanging file)
  - a) GEAR UP (manila folder)
    - GEAR Up Brochure
    - Staff Sheet
    - GEAR UP Fact Sheet
    - GEAR Up Newsletters (Current Issues)
- 3) **Preparing for College** – (hanging file)
  - a) Preparing for College (manila folder)
    - GEAR UP “What Did You Say?” (brochure)
    - GEAR UP Divider Fact sheet “Make Every Course Count!”
    - GEAR UP Dividers Fact Sheet “True or False”
    - Step-by-Step Guide to College
  - b) “How to Go to College Guide” (GEAR UP printed books)
- 4) **Applying for College** – (hanging file)
  - a) General Information
    - Sample of College Application
  - b) PSAT, SAT, & ACT Information – (manila folder)
    - GEAR UP Divider Fact Sheet –
      - “Psssst...What’s the PSAT?”
      - “Test Your TEST Knowledge?”
      - The ACT: Preparing for the ACT (study booklet)
  - c) Admission & College Application Information – (manila folder)
    - Sample College Applications
    - Understanding College Admission Hand-outs (
- 5) **How to Pay for College** – (hanging file)
  - a) Paying for College – (manila folder)
    - GEAR UP Divider Fact Sheet
      - “Getting Money for College”
    - FASA brochure
    - Paying for College Brochures or FASA information have
  - d) Scholarship Information (manila folder)
    - GEAR UP Divider Fact Sheet
      - “NCAA Scholarship Requirements”
    - FastWeb Brochure & Flyer
  - e) “Funding your Education” booklet from Federal Student Aid Info Center
  - f) “Paying for College 2005 – 2006” booklet from NELA (Northwest Education Loan Association)
- 6) **Personal Record** – (hanging file)
  - *Portfolio Documents*  
(manila folder for student to begin saving personal information)