K20CENTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

GEAR UP

The K20 Center is excited to welcome you as a new strategic partner. Through exploring this relationship, you'll see how K20 and GEAR UP work together to establish a college-going culture that leads to life-altering benefits for your students.

In 2018, the K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal competed and was awarded three separate Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP) grants sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. **There were 160 applications for GEAR UP funding, 60 grants were awarded, and K20 won 3 of them.**

The GEAR UP OKC, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS, and GEAR UP for the FUTURE grants will provide seven years of services and development to 46 partner schools all across the state of Oklahoma.

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What is GEAR UP?

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education to help students prepare for and pursue a college education.The K20 Center has already worked with many schools, both urban and rural, across the state in past GEAR UP efforts. The power of a GEAR UP project is that it transforms a high-poverty school community into a college-going culture.

2007-2014
SUCCESS

Over the course of a six year grant, K20's GEAR UP for SUCCESS provided college readiness services to...

3,549

*cohort students from 32 **districts** living in mostly rural, ethnically diverse, **poverty stricken** areas of Oklahoma.*

Hours of teacher, student, and family participation in college preparation programs totaled **186,929.**

2011-2018
PROMISE

In its fifth of seven years, K20's GEAR UP for the PROMISE has been providing college readiness services to...

4,337

*cohort students from 9 **high schools** living in urban, ethnically diverse, **poverty stricken** areas of the Oklahoma City Metro.*

Hours of teacher, student, and family participation in college preparation programs so far totals **100,166.**

	COMPARISON COHORT	SUCCESS COHORT	OKLAHOMA	NATIONAL
FAFSA Completion Rate	46.7%	51.9%	33.5%	40.8%
ACT Participation	45.6%	80.0%	75%	57%
High School Graduation Rate	79.7%	89.5%	78.2%	74.6%
College Enrollment	46.8%	62%	52%	41%

SINCE GEAR UP FOR THE PROMISE BEGAN IN 2011,COHORT STUDENTS HAVE MADE:

An increase in awareness about the cost and benefits of going to college — **29% INCREASE**

An increase in awareness of Financial Aid availability — **54% INCREASE**

An increase in awareness of college entrance requirements — **51% INCREASE**

Cohort Students that believe they can succeed in college — **93%**

NEW GEAR UP PROGRAMS 2018-2025

GEAR UP FOR THE FUTURE

4,729 STUDENTS

11 SCHOOLS

$3,783,200/year
7 Year Total:
$26,482,400

+

GEAR UP FOR MY SUCCESS

4,154 STUDENTS

23 SCHOOLS

$3,323,200/year
7 Year Total:
$23,262,400

+

GEAR UP (Opportunities+Knowledge=College) O+K=C

3,339 STUDENTS

12 SCHOOLS

$2,668,800/year
7 Year Total:
$18,681,600

=

TOTALS

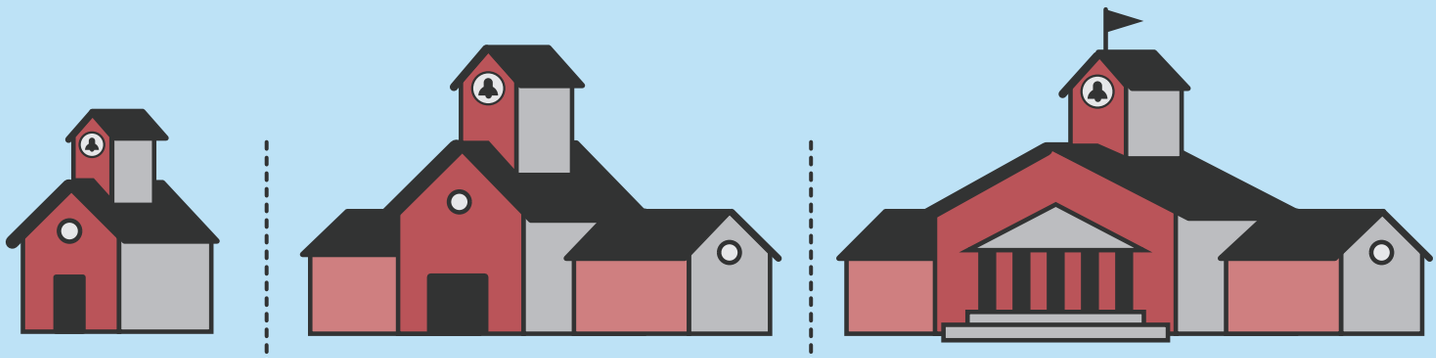
12,222 STUDENTS

46 SCHOOLS

$9,775,200/year
7 Year Total:
$68,426,400

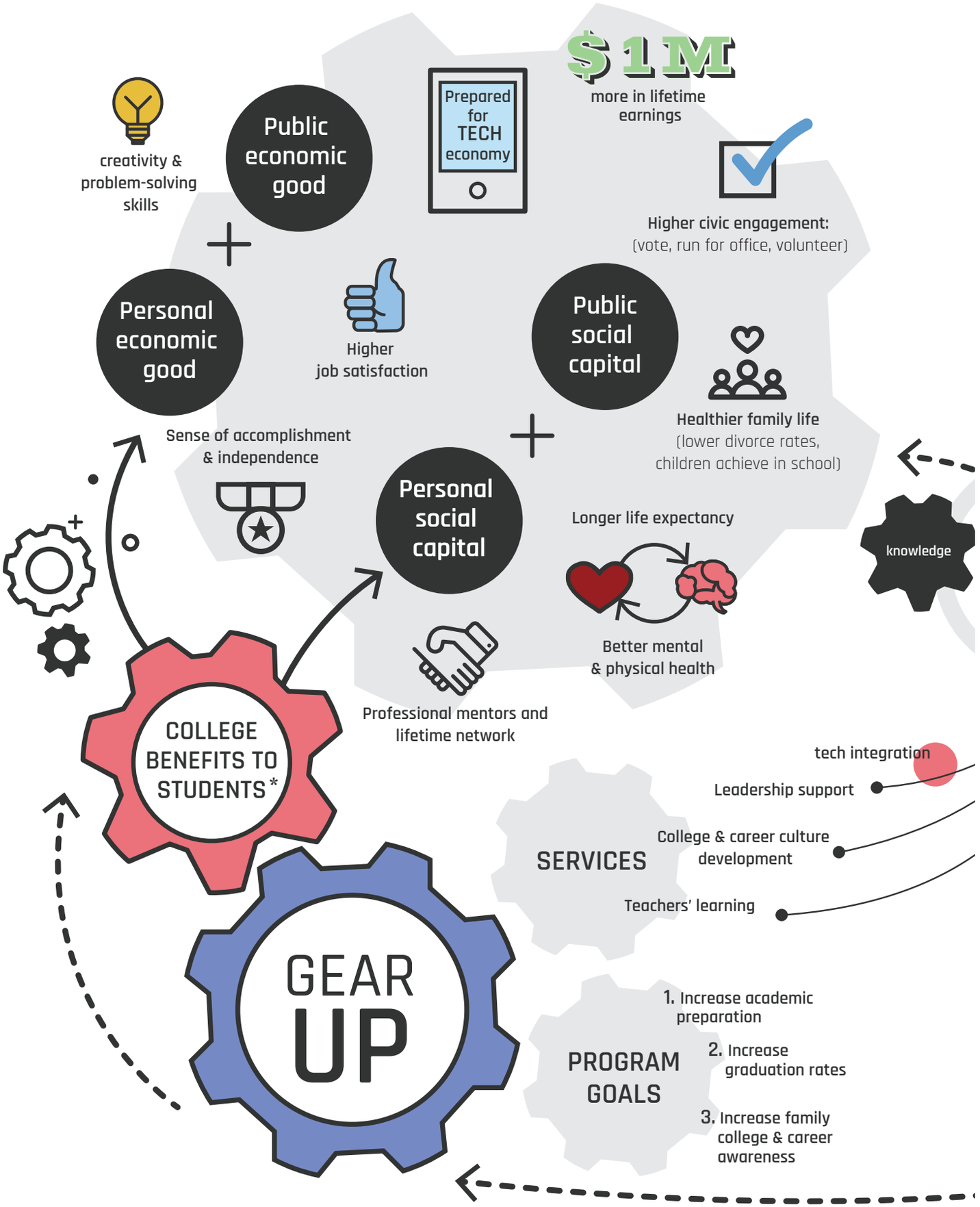
The GEAR UP Model

- Raises academic aspirations of the entire cohort
- Supports the cohort long-term (6th or 7th grade through first year of college)
- Provides sustainable resources that remain with the grade level even after the cohort moves forward

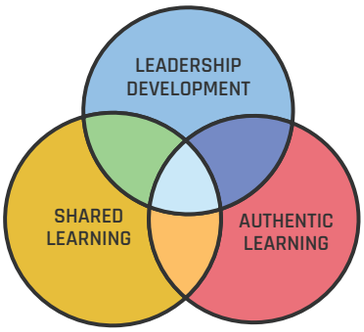


MIDDLE SCHOOL | **HIGH SCHOOL** | **COLLEGE**

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
6TH	7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH
7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	COLLEGE FRESHMAN

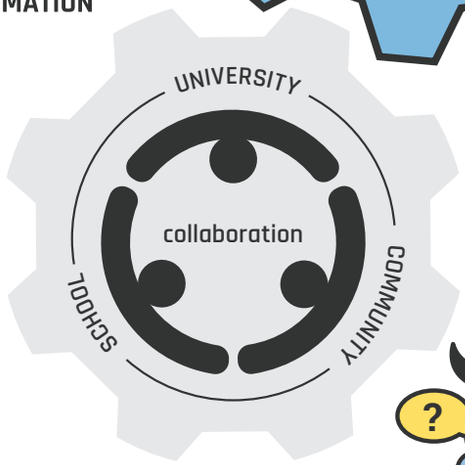

$1M
more in lifetime earnings
creativity & problem-solving skills
Public economic good
Prepared for TECH economy
Higher civic engagement:
(vote, run for office, volunteer)
Personal economic good
Higher job satisfaction
Public social capital
Healthier family life
(lower divorce rates, children achieve in school)
Sense of accomplishment & independence
Personal social capital
Longer life expectancy
knowledge
Better mental & physical health
Professional mentors and lifetime network
COLLEGE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS*
tech integration
Leadership support
College & career culture development
SERVICES
Teachers' learning
GEAR UP
1. Increase academic preparation
2. Increase graduation rates
PROGRAM GOALS
3. Increase family college & career awareness

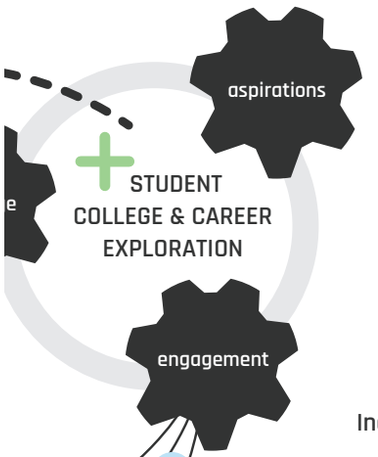
The K20 Center's **mission** is to cultivate a collaborative network engaged in research and outreach that creates and sustains innovation and transformation through...



INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATION

APPROACH





LEARNER-CENTERED PD & INSTRUCTION

RESEARCH-BASED & DATA-DRIVEN

Inquiry Equity Leadership Discourse Authenticity Service

IDEALS

AUTHENTIC LESSONS *

INCREASE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF
enjoyment
interest
critical thinking
future relevance

DECREASE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF
boredom
confusion
frustration
hopelessness

model resources
learn.k20center.ou.edu
strategies, lessons, activities

Evaluation Expectations
(Surveys, Student achievement data, Mini-research studies)

* References

Hutton, H. (2017). Learn to articulate the value of college beyond dollar signs. *Recruiting & Retaining Adult Learners*, 19(7), 6-7.

Stroukoff, A. E., Heddy, B. C., Wilson, S. N., Williams, L. A., Atkinson, L. K., & Garn, G. A. (submitted). Making 'brain food': Converting photosynthesis into a positive learning experience through authentic instruction, *Science Education*.

Jeter, G. R., Baber, J. E., Heddy, B., Wilson, S., Williams, L. Atkinson, L. ,Garn, G. (2018). Students at the Center: Insights and Implications of Authentic, 5E Instruction in High School English Language Arts. *Research in the Teaching of English*. Manuscript under review.

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PROJECT DESIGN

GEAR UP OKC builds on a systemic change model by serving an urban cohort of **3339 students** in **12 high-poverty schools** to better prepare these schools to serve high-need, urban students. To do so, GEAR UP OKC will:

GOAL 1:	Increase percent of cohort students who report they are engaged in learning.
GOAL 2:	Increase GEAR UP OKC students' academic preparation for PSE upon graduation from participating schools.
GOAL 3:	Increase GEAR UP OKC schools' high school graduation and PSE enrollment rates.
GOAL 4:	Increase GEAR UP OKC students' and their families' knowledge of PSE options, preparation, and financing.

Using a three-tiered approach, GEAR UP OKC will work with schools to research, plan, and implement a college and career readiness (CCR) framework that focuses on engaging students with rigorous, relevant instruction; expanding academic supports; increasing student access to adult advocates; and growing the college-going culture.

SERVICES

Student Engagement Dashboard

In the first tier, GEAR UP OKC will develop the Student Engagement Dashboard, which will provide stakeholders with diagnostic information regarding student engagement around behavioral and psychological constructs.

Targeted Student Interventions

The second tier, using the data streams realized in the diagnostic tier, will provide meaningful targeted interventions. Research-validated strategies will be adapted and implemented at the school level, ensuring that interventions are backed by evidence and customized to meet the needs of each school.

Adult Advocates: GEAR UP OKC will use a site-based college coach as an adult advocate who bridges communication gaps that exist between the students and their families or school staff. College coaches will use the Student Engagement Dashboard to identify students who consistently exhibit early indicators of cognitive, emotional, or behavioral disengagement. These high-risk students are included on the coach's caseload and provided with meaningful supports. With this flexible, individualized approach, the college coach might assist some students with building skills such as problem solving and goal setting, while other students might require referral to tutoring programs or other services.

Site-Based Action Plans

GEAR UP OKC schools and project staff will work together to use K20's logic model platform, PLANS (Project Logic models: Adapting Novel Strategies for school), to create site-based action plans. The six-stage action plan-building process includes data analysis, defining research, setting goals, determining activities and resources, indicating outputs, and defining intermediate and long-term outcomes.

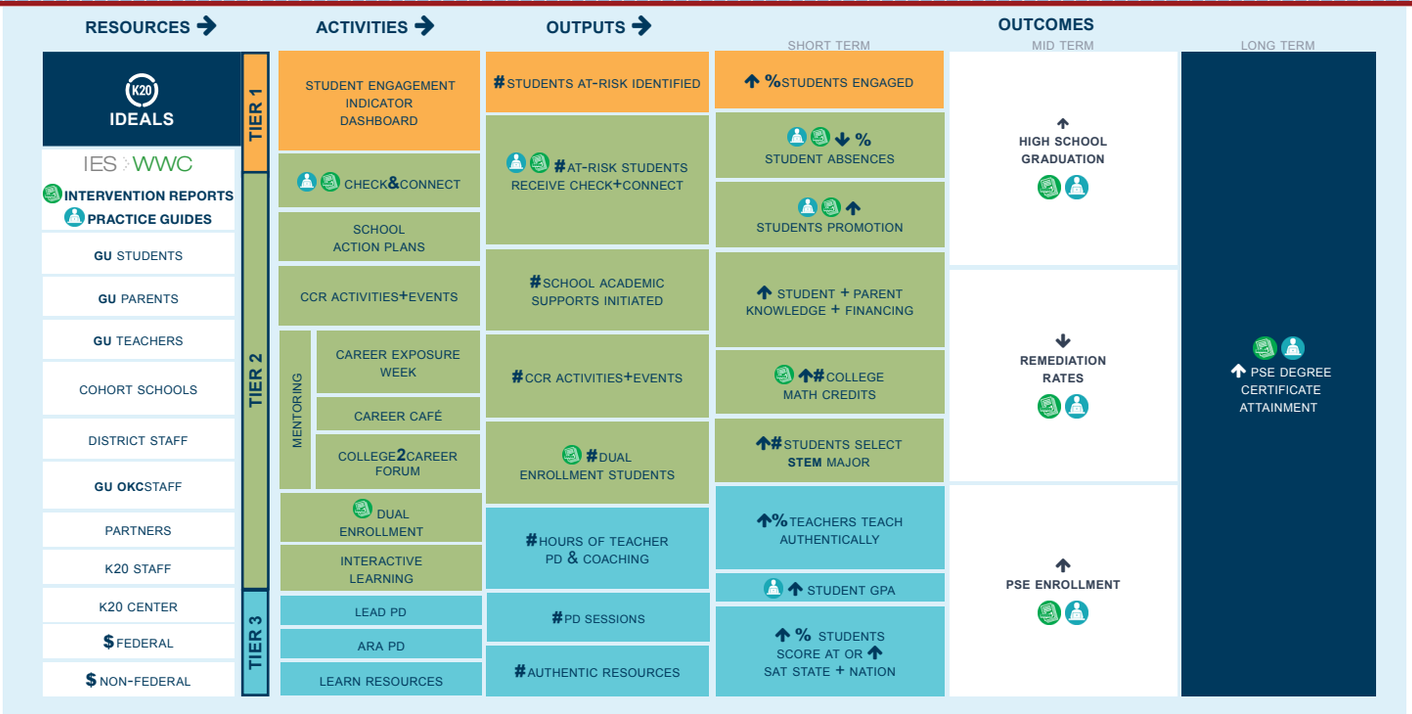
GEAR UP OKC's professional curriculum writers and instructional designers work with each school to align research-based strategies with school-specific needs. They collaborate to develop an implementation plan and create a professional development curriculum packet for the school's teachers and staff that incorporates key adult learning structures and models authentic, learner-centered instruction.

LEAD Summer Institute: The GEAR UP OKC professional development coordinator will work with teachers who agree to serve as teacher-leaders. These teachers will complete a summer institute (called LEAD) where they explore adult learning and the K20 Center's instructional framework. LEAD teachers will team with the coordinator to help implement the school's action plan. As the year progresses, LEAD teachers will assume a greater role in facilitating site-based professional development opportunities, while the coordinator will take a step back to serve in a supporting role.

Career Readiness

Through three career-related initiatives, GEAR UP OKC students will be introduced to new careers to which they might not otherwise have access.

GEAR UP OKC students will participate in Oklahoma Works' Career Expo Week, where they will be introduced to an array of in-demand careers in business and industry. Students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful, small-group mentoring sessions with a professional through Career Cafés: Each Café provides an opportunity for students to speak directly a community member about careers and college planning in a small-group atmosphere during the students' lunch period. College2Career Forums give students the opportunity for on-site, hands-on experience with a career that interests them and an opportunity to



engage in a brief mentoring session with a professional.

Each of these opportunities will help students boost their career aspirations and personal goals and establish a road map to achieve those goals.

College-going Culture

College Teams: Teams (counselors, teachers, parents, and students) will be formed to implement academic, behavioral, and postsecondary education awareness activities with students and their families. These teams will attend an annual planning institute where they review literature to identify the elements of a college-going culture that are most relevant for their school community. Teams will then use that information to build a year-long plan to implement related activities.

Campus Visit: Supported by the College Teams, all cohort students will visit a minimum of five postsecondary education partners throughout their six-year middle and high school careers. Each annual visit will target a different element of college life, degree path, or career and allow students to explore the campus, interact with college mentors, and gather information (entrance requirements, degree paths, cost, scholarship and financial assistance).

In addition to campus visits, the College Teams will provide student and family events that align to and promote federal and state recommended timelines and milestones for middle school and high school students as they consider postsecondary education.

Dual Enrollment: GEAR UP OKC will provide students with an opportunity to earn college-level mathematics credit through Statway for Seniors, a dual enrollment, co-requisite course to earn on-level, college mathematics credits. Statway for Seniors is an innovative approach to give students on the cusp of college readiness a transitional strategy to avoid the "academic-death sentence" of remediation and reap the opportunity to earn an on-level college mathematics credit.

Schoolwide Intervention—Authentic Teaching and Learning

Authentic learning is active and student-centered and occurs as students access prior knowledge and understanding to connect with foundational concepts (Bransford et al., 2000). In authentic classrooms, teachers foster a climate of questioning, risk-taking, and respect.

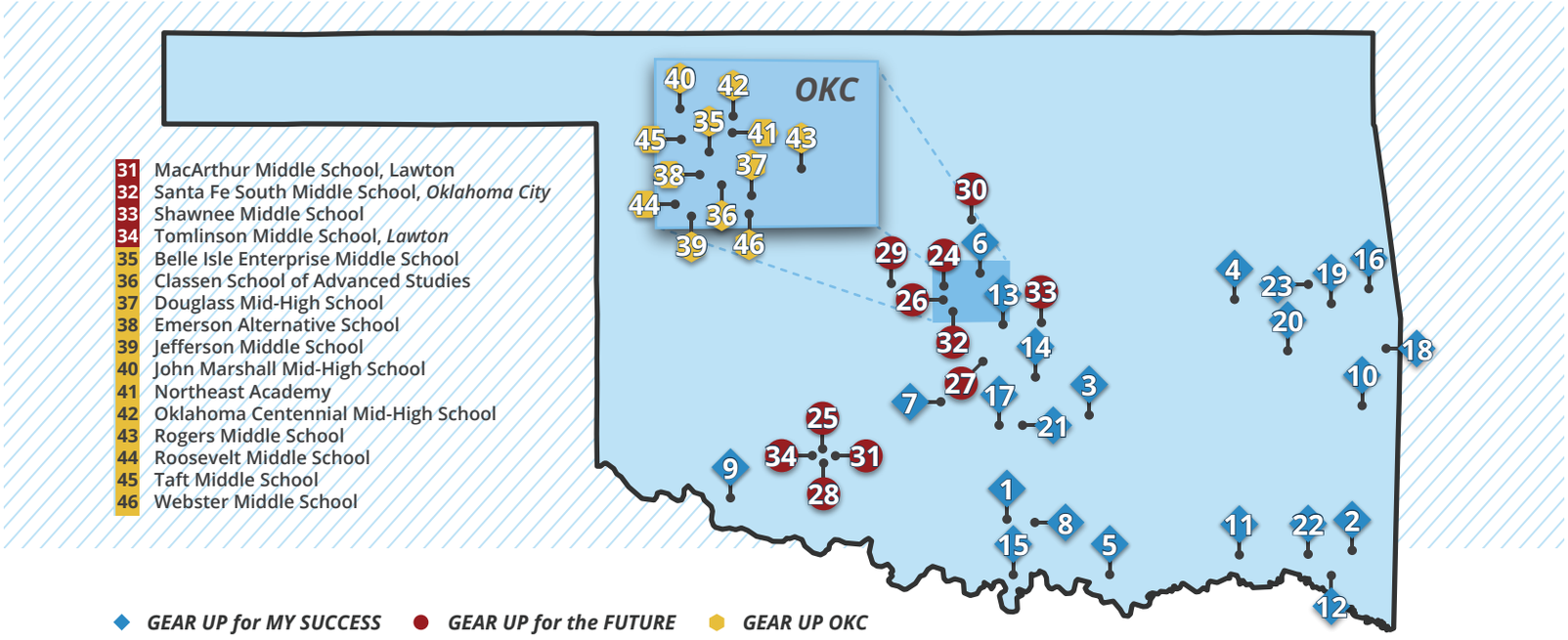
LEARN: The K20 Center has created a repository of high quality, authentic lessons that include recommended instructional approaches, strategies, and supports (handouts, and presentations). Curriculum writers coordinate with cohort teachers to identify a standards-based learning objective and build a lesson around that objective. Student-centered authentic lessons have been shown to have significant advantages over teacher-centered instruction and generate more student interest and less boredom (Jeter et al, 2018).

LEARN currently includes more than 250 published lessons across English, math, science, and social studies. Curriculum writers will create additional lessons for GEAR UP OKC teachers.

Action Research in Authenticity (ARA): The K20 Center has developed an authentic teaching professional development structure, ARA, that places the teacher in the roles of learner and action researcher. Each participating teacher has access to a year-long professional development experience, starting with a four-day summer institute that explores the theory and practical application of authenticity. AS teachers implement a series of authentic LEARN lessons in their classrooms, they are mentored by GEAR UP OKC curriculum specialists and identify their strengths and opportunities for growth.

Map of Cohort Schools

1. Ardmore Middle School
2. Rector Johnson Junior High, *Broken Bow*
3. Byng Middle School
4. Checotah Middle School
5. Colbert Middle School
6. Crooked Oak Middle School, *Oklahoma City*
7. Dibble Middle School
8. Dickson Middle School
9. Frederick Middle School
10. Heavener Elementary School
11. Hugo Middle School
12. Idabel Middle School
13. Little Axe Junior High
14. Macomb Elementary School
15. Marietta Middle School
16. Muldrow Middle School
17. Pauls Valley Junior High
18. Pocola Middle School
19. Tommie Spear Middle School, *Sallisaw*
20. Stigler Middle School
21. Stratford Middle School
22. Valliant Middle School
23. Vian Middle School
24. Capps Middle School, *Putnam City*
25. Central Middle School, *Lawton*
26. Cooper Middle School, *Putnam City*
27. Curtis Inge Middle School, *Noble*
28. Eisenhower Middle School, *Lawton*
29. Etta Dale Junior High, *El Reno*
30. Guthrie Junior High
31. MacArthur Middle School, Lawton
32. Santa Fe South Middle School, *Oklahoma City*
33. Shawnee Middle School
34. Tomlinson Middle School, *Lawton*
35. Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School
36. Classen School of Advanced Studies
37. Douglass Mid-High School
38. Emerson Alternative School
39. Jefferson Middle School
40. John Marshall Mid-High School
41. Northeast Academy
42. Oklahoma Centennial Mid-High School
43. Rogers Middle School
44. Roosevelt Middle School
45. Taft Middle School
46. Webster Middle School



The K20 Center *for Educational and Community Renewal* is a statewide education research and development center at the University of Oklahoma that promotes research-based innovative learning through school-university-community collaboration.

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