



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
Community and Education
Partnerships

Connecting to the Big Picture: An Orientation to GEAR UP

About the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)



Our mission is to build the capacity of communities to ensure that underserved students have the opportunity, skills and knowledge to successfully pursue the education and training that will enable them to achieve their career and life goals.

- Professional Development
- Technical Assistance
- National Programs
- Research
- Public Policy
- Advocacy



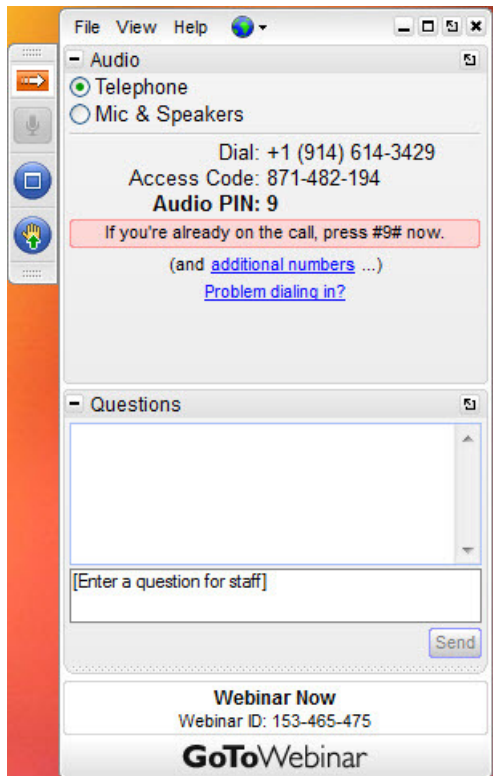
Webinar Goals

- To orient new(ish) GEAR UP professionals to the national GEAR UP program
- To explore the rationale, objectives, and theory of action for GEAR UP
- To clarify any questions you may have about the program



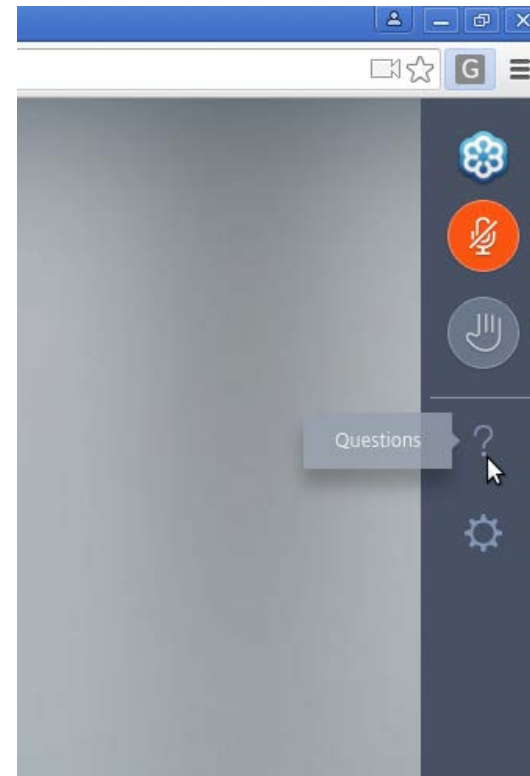
How to Ask Questions

Desktop Software



← Type Your Question Here

On-Line Viewer



← Click and Type Your Question Here

What is this GEAR UP that Everyone is Talking About?



- **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms
- A highly competitive, federally-funded initiative
- National in scope
- A key lever in our nation's strategy in improving college readiness and success for low-income students



Why Does GEAR UP
Exist?



College Aspirations

- **70%** of Americans say it is very important for adults in this country to have a degree or professional certificate beyond high school
- Only **22%** of Americans agree or strongly agree that they are confident that having only a high school diploma can lead to a good job
- **96%** of ACT-tested, low-income HS graduates aspire to earn a postsecondary degree or credential

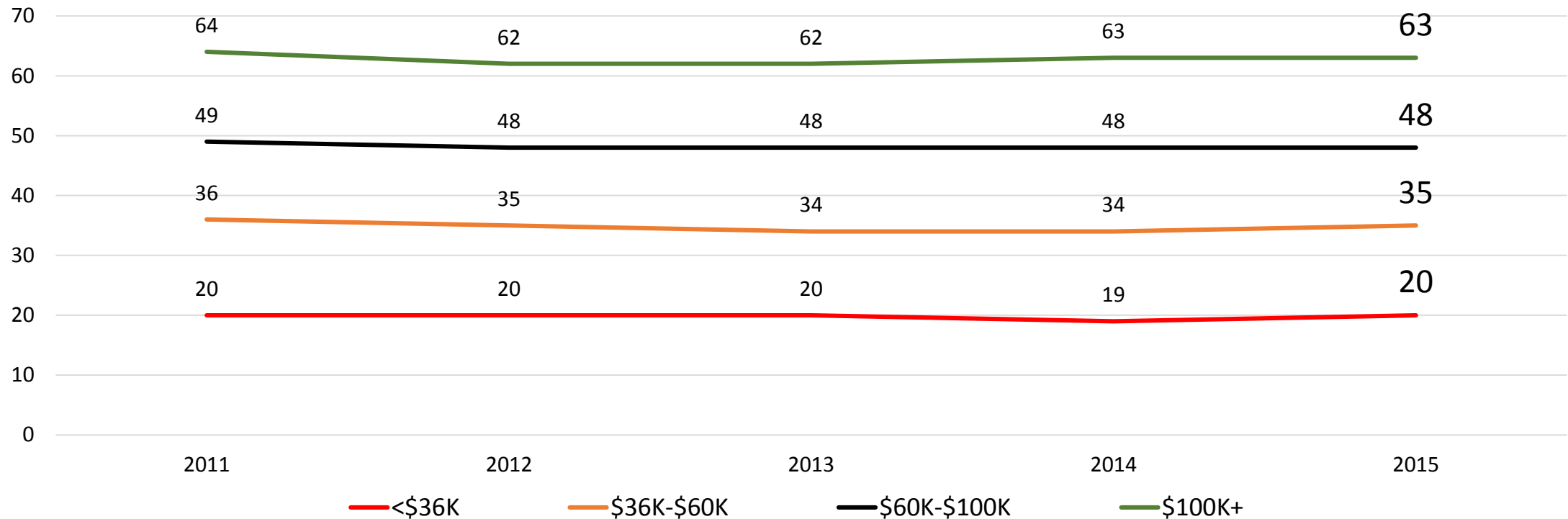
Gallup/Lumina Foundation, "Americans Value Postsecondary Education: The 2015 Gallup-Lumina Foundation Study of the American Public's Opinion on Higher Education." Retrieved from <http://www.gallup.com/services/190583/americans-value-postsecondary-education-report.aspx>.

ACT, & National Council for Community and Education Partnerships [NCCEP]. (2015). *The condition of college & career readiness 2015: Students from low-income families*.



Academic Readiness

Percentage of 2011-2015 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Family Income



ACT, & National Council for Community and Education Partnerships [NCCEP]. (2015). *The condition of college & career readiness 2015: Students from low-income families.*



College Knowledge

- Applying to **2** colleges instead of **1** increases college enrollment by **40%**
- Applying to **3** instead of **2** increases possibility of enrollment by **10%**.

This is particularly important for **low-income students**, who tend to submit significantly *fewer* college applications than their high-income peers.



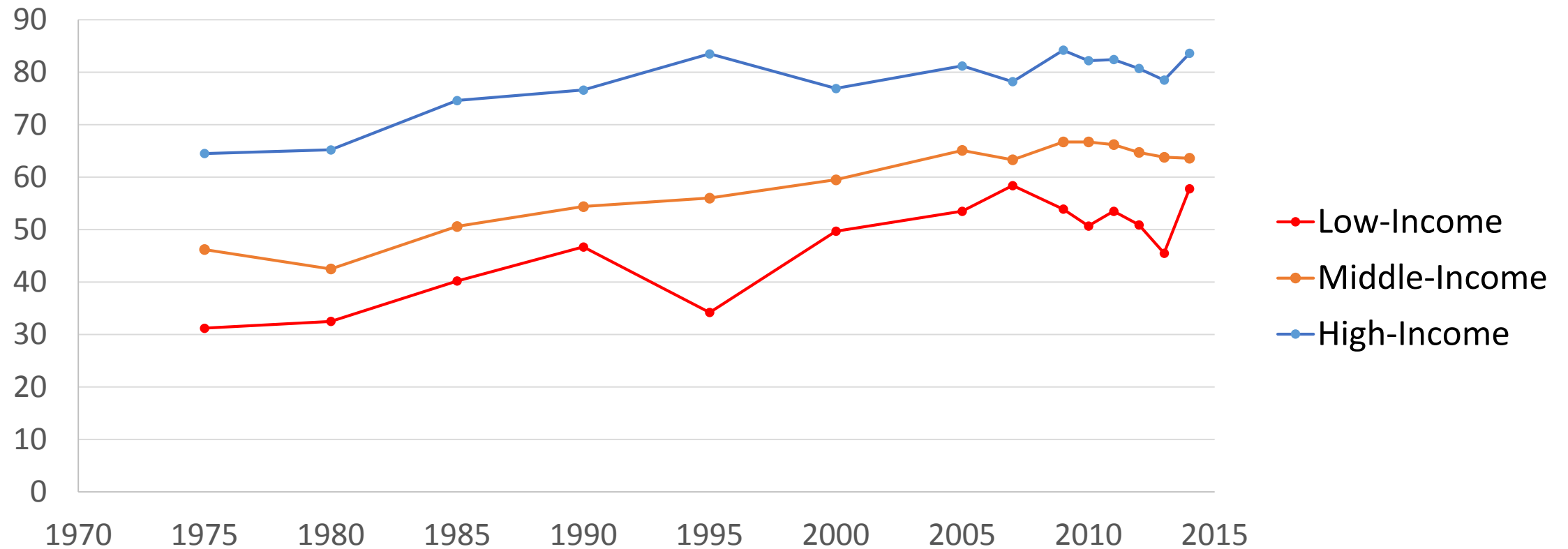
College Knowledge

- Low-income students are *less* likely to know about financial aid than their peers
- Parents' estimation of college cost correlates with income
- Without *basic college knowledge*, parents overestimate costs by 228%



College Enrollment

Percentage of Recent High School Completers Enrolled in 2-year and 4-year Colleges



National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Percentage of recent high school completers enrolled in 2-year and 4-year colleges, by income level: 1975 through 2014 *Digest of education statistics: 2014*.



College Completion

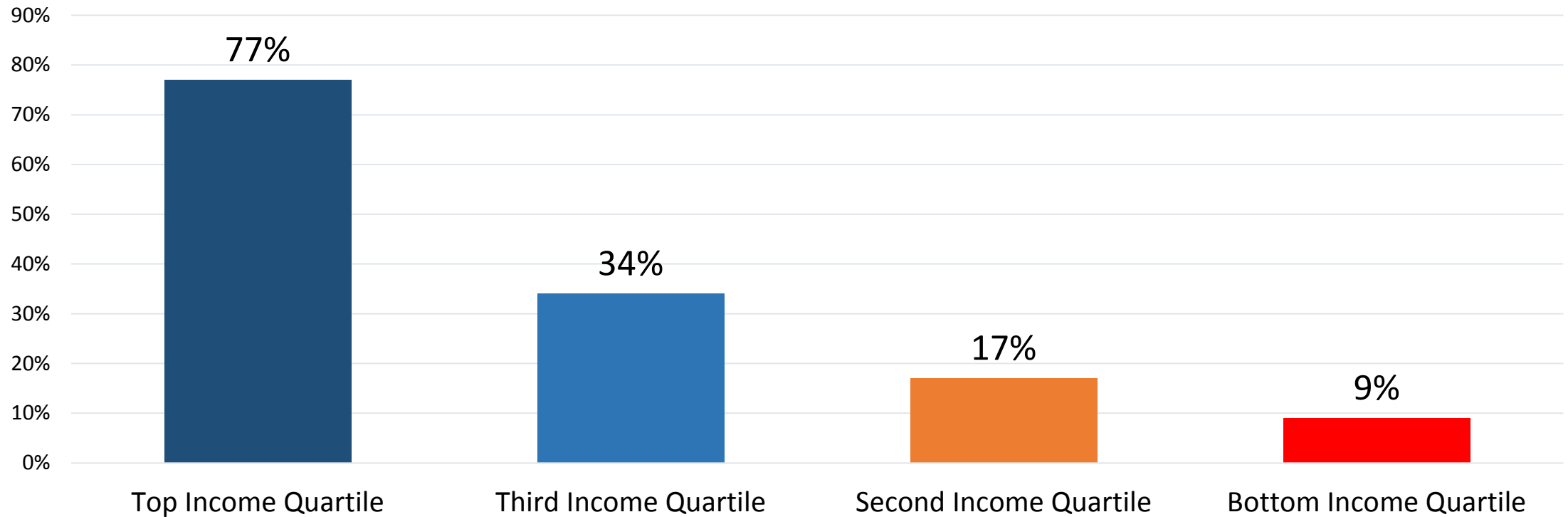
- **6-year** college completion rates:
 - High-income = **42%**
 - Low-income = **20%**
- At **4-year** institutions:
 - High-income = **78%**
 - Low-income = **40%**

Low-income students are **5x** more likely to get out of poverty with a college degree.



Bachelor's Degree Attainment

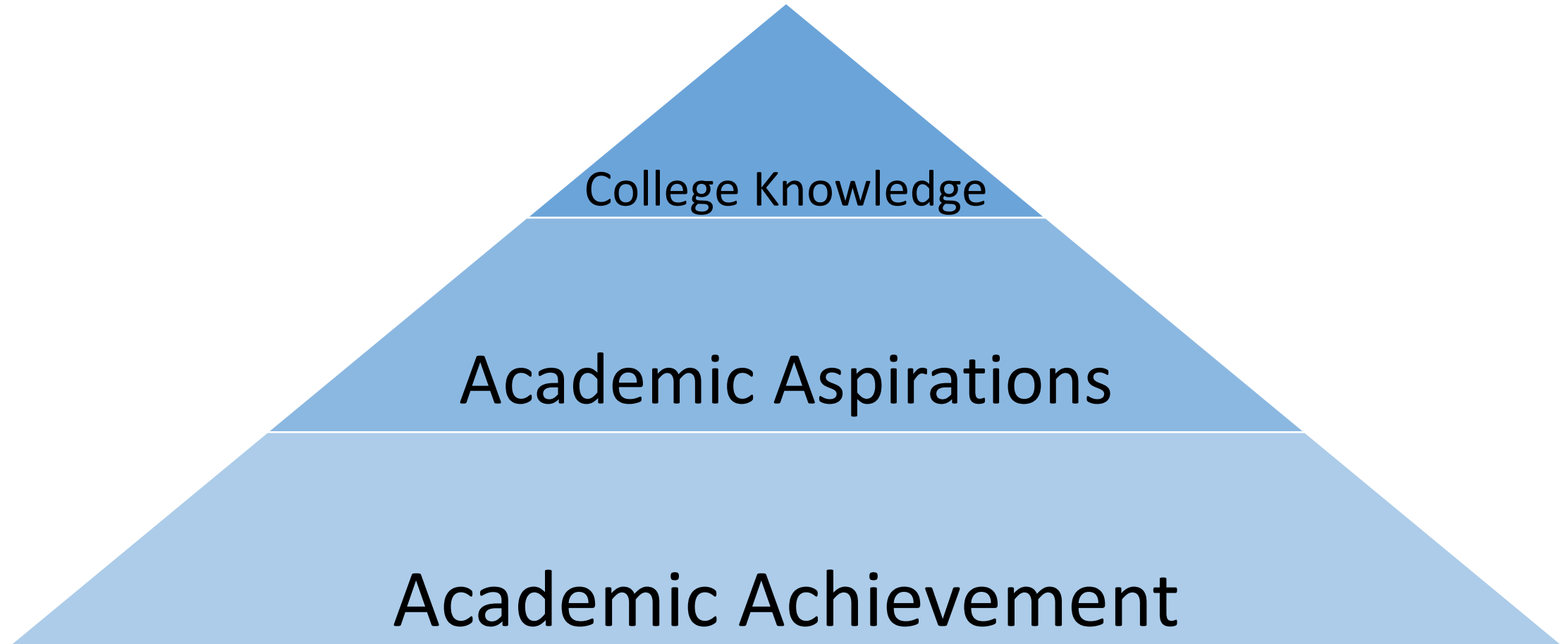
Percent of People with Bachelor's Degree by Age 24 by Income Quartile



The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, & Penn Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (2015).
Indicators of higher education equity in the United States.



The Need for a Unified Approach





How Does GEAR UP
Improve College
Readiness & Success?



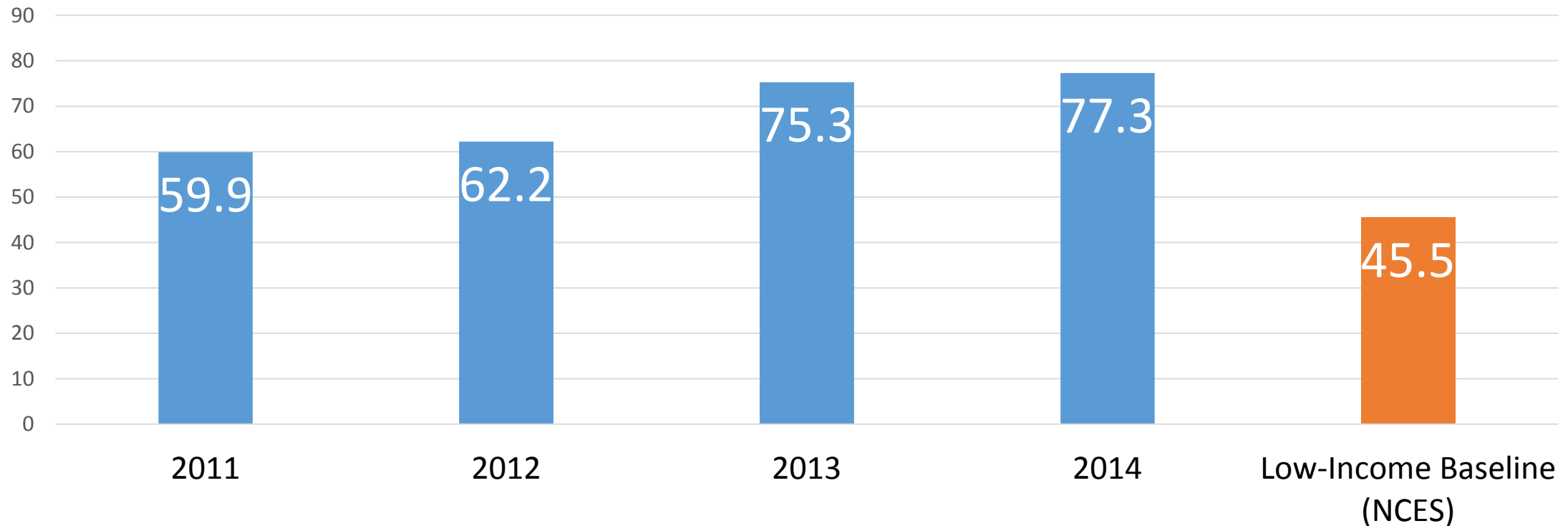
National Objectives for GEAR UP

1. To increase **the academic performance and preparation** for postsecondary education of participating students;
2. To increase the rate of **high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education** of participating students; and
3. To increase **educational expectations** for participating students and increase **student and family knowledge** of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.



GEAR UP Postsecondary Enrollment, 2011-2014

The percentage of former GEAR UP high school graduates who immediately enrolled in college



Source: U.S. Department of Education, FY 2017 Budget Justification



Improving College Readiness

- GEAR UP promotes success by:
 - Diagnosing the root causes of student barriers to higher education;
 - Facilitating the completion of a rigorous college preparatory curriculum;
 - Providing intensive academic and social support to students;
 - Engaging students and families about the value of education; and
 - Guiding students and families through the college search, application, and enrollment process



What Makes GEAR UP Unique

- Holistic program rooted in early intervention
 - *Beginning no later than 7th grade*
- Provides whole grades with sustained programs
 - *Programs typically follow students as they progress (cohort approach)*
- Applies research-based practices to local efforts
 - *Applications require deep analysis of local needs and resources*
 - *Complex data collection and reporting requirements*
- Community and education partnerships
 - *Legislation requires K-12, postsecondary, and community partners to work towards common goals*
- Leverages local assets and resources for sustainability
 - *Dollar-for-dollar match requirement*



Common GEAR UP Activities

Academic

- Professional development
- Curriculum development and alignment
- Supplemental academic offerings
- Dual enrollment, early college, and AP
- Academic advising, mentoring, and tutoring
- Bridge/transitions programs

Aspirations

- Student, family and community engagement programs
- College visits and tours
- Career counseling, mentoring, and internships
- Leadership, service learning, and motivational programs
- Grit/Non-Cog
- Scholarships & awards



Common GEAR UP Activities

College Knowledge

- Creating college-going cultures
- Supporting the college search, application, and enrollment process
- College admissions advising, mentoring, SAT/ACT prep, and college application assistance
- Financial literacy, financial aid, and FAFSA completion

Partnerships

- Establish and sustain partnerships among K-12, higher ed, CBO's, business and civic leaders
- Development of shared agenda and action plan
- Increased collaboration, joint programming, and local policy initiatives



The Truth About GEAR UP Success

- While the strategies that GEAR UP provide are essential . . .
 - GEAR UP is about people
 - GEAR UP is about leadership
 - GEAR UP is about relationships



How is GEAR UP
Administered?



From National to Local: Resource Distribution

Congress

- Works with administration to determine total GEAR UP allocation
- Appropriates the funds to the U.S. Department of Education

US Dept. of ED

- Hosts a grant competition
- Makes awards based on peer review recommendations
- Provides oversight and accountability

GU Fiscal Agent

- Designs program, applies for the grant, and manages overall resources
- Provides leadership and oversight to project implementation
- Provides capacity building, technical support, and partnership management

Partner Schools

- Receive and manage their portion of GEAR UP resources
- Implement comprehensive programs & interventions
- Collects and reports student, school, and/or district data



Two Grant Programs: State & Partnership

State Grants

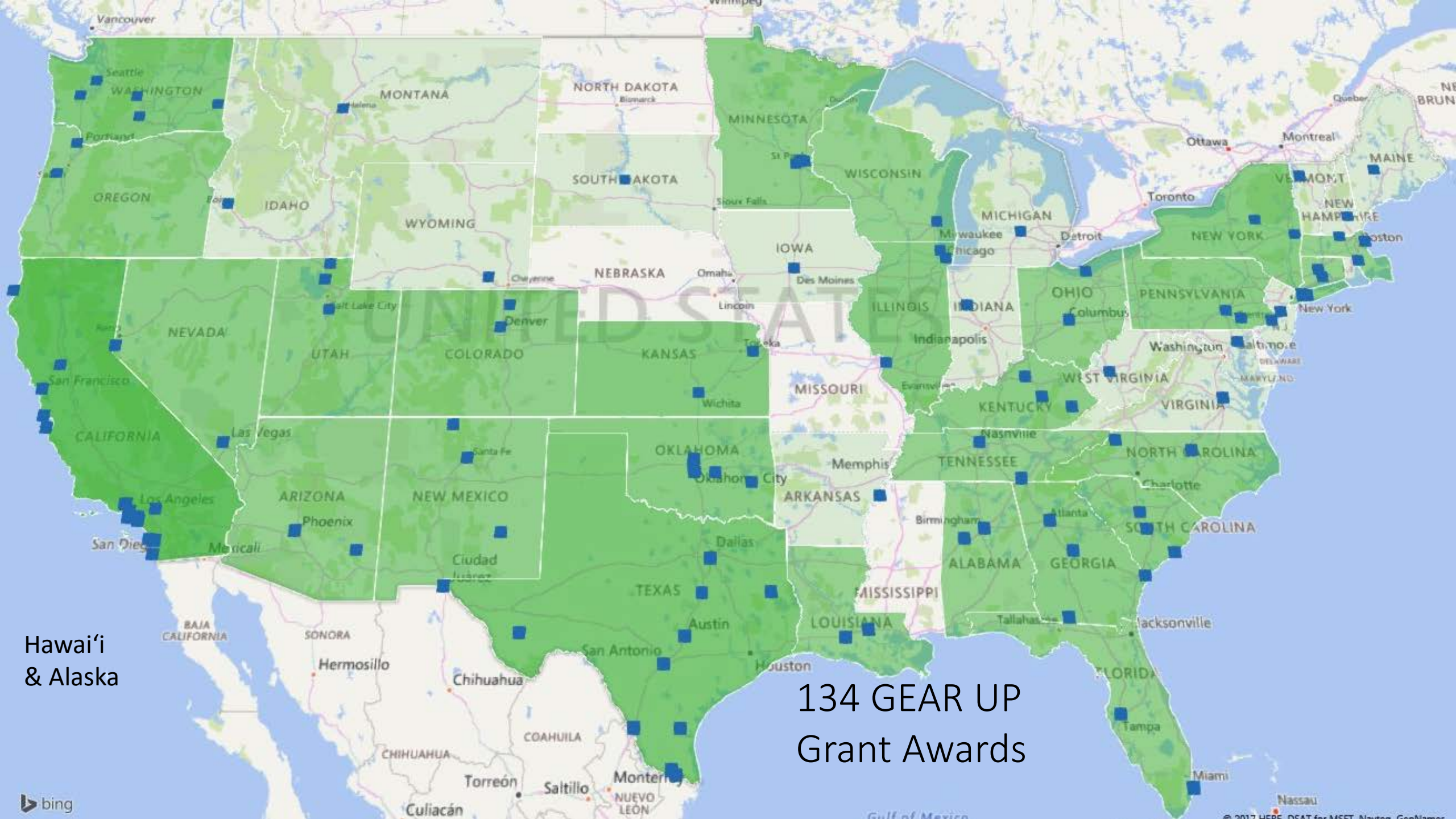
- Competitive, 6/7-year grants
- Awarded to a organization appointed by Governor
- Must provide scholarships to GEAR UP students, or obtain a waiver
- Provide early intervention and services to cohorts of students, or alternatively, priority students
- Annual budget is limited--new applicants were limited to \$3.5M

Partnership Grants

- Competitive, 6/7-year grants
- Awarded to a school district or college/university
- Provide early intervention and services to cohorts of students, in specific feeder patterns
- Annual budget is limited to \$800 per student served

GEAR UP in 2017: 635,400 Students

State Grants		Partnership Grants	
Total # of Awards	42	Total # of Awards	92
# of New FY16 Awards	5	# of New FY16 Awards	5
# of Continuing Awards	37	# of Continuing Awards	87
Total Funding from FY 2016	\$158,930,528	Total Funding from FY 2016	\$163,769,472
Funding for New Awards	\$14,286,413	Funding for New Awards	\$7,071,679
Avg. New Award (Annual)	\$2,857,282	Avg. New Award (Annual)	\$1,414,335
Avg. Continuing Award (Annual)	\$3,909,300	Avg. Continuing Award (Annual)	\$1,801,124



Hawai'i
& Alaska

134 GEAR UP
Grant Awards



Questions & Answers



For More Information:

Alex Chough, NCCEP

Alex_Chough@edpartnerships.org

202-530-1135