

# Transition to College

Preliminary data based on a two-month program evaluation of the Transition to College program. The evaluation included focus groups with parents and students, as well as analysis of pre and post surveys.



## PARENTS

### Benefits of the Program

- **Learned** about different aspects of applying to and attending college (e.g., costs, financial aid, coping with the emotional transition from high school to college).
- **More involved** with their children's schooling.
- **Communication improved** as parents felt **more confident** talking to their children about college.
- **Hope** that their children can attend college.
- **Proud** to see their children become more independent.

### Challenges

- Continued **difficulties** in accepting **children's departure to college**.
- Wanting to be **as involved** with their child **in college** as they were in high school.
- **Not fully understanding** the life of a college student.

### Parents' Recommendations

- **Continue and expand** the program to more parents, schools, and students.
- Offer GEAR UP and Transition to College programming **for younger students**.
- **Provide continued parental support** as their children attend college.

94%



Would recommend the program to a friend.

93%



Felt the program gave them new information and ideas.

90%



Felt the program increased the likelihood that their child would go to college.

"I'm so grateful for this program because my son and other kids could have gone another way. They are learning a lot in this program. I wish they can offer this in more schools."

-Participant

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## STUDENTS

### Meaning of Going to College

- **Increased responsibility** and becoming an adult.
- **Working hard** and **sacrificing** to get into college to **fulfill dreams** of having a good job.
- Being able to **overcome** different and difficult circumstances.
- Sense of **accomplishment**.

### Benefits of the Program

- Helped **increase and improve communication** with parents regarding different aspects of college.
- **Reduced** students' **burden and stress** in explaining college application processes and documents to parents.
- FIS and GEAR UP staff were seen as **role models**.
- **Happiness** from seeing parents confront and accept their fears and emotions regarding their children going to college.
- Students felt **more supported and understood**.

### Students' Recommendations

- **More sessions** in English and Spanish and more time to review the material.
- The opportunity to **share more** of their **perspectives** during group activities.
- Use **visual and real-life examples** during classes.
- **More outreach** to engage more students and parents.

95%



Gained more knowledge about financial literacy & financial planning.

72%



Developed a plan to help them transition to college.

97%



Understand the importance of family communication before and during college.

"One of the most valuable lessons that I learned was how much we are going to spend in college and the different assistance we're going to have...My college friends tell me they don't receive help at all and have to do this on their own."

-Participant