



## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BENCHMARKS

**GEAR UP recommends that all students meet these grade level specific benchmarks in order to graduate from high school ready for the postsecondary program or college of their choosing. Use this checklist to help you plan and keep track of your progress.**

- Attend GEAR UP 8th grade orientation.
- Family attends GEAR UP 8th grade orientation and participates in quarterly family workshops.
- Perform at or above grade level in math (pre-algebra or above is recommended), language arts, and science classes. Prepare for taking Algebra next year.
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA above 2.4 on a 4.0 scale. A 3.0 GPA is the minimum for many colleges.
- Create a High School and Beyond Plan.
- Stay alcohol-free, drug-free, crime-free, and tobacco-free.
- Promote to ninth grade.
- Participate in GEAR UP activities.
- Visit a postsecondary school campus.
- Take the ACT ASPIRE test.
- Attend events to learn about going to college and financial aid.
- Complete "The Vault" financial literacy curriculum.
- Learn about three or more careers.
- Learn about three or more postsecondary schools or programs.
- Participate in study skills and tutoring activities.
- Meet Standard on MSP-Science.
- Meet Standard on Smarter Balanced (ELA & Math).
- Receive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Certificate.
- Sign up for College Bound Scholarship.