OVERALL REQUIREMENT
Eligible high school students are either homeless or in foster care and are referred to the GEAR UP Georgia program by school social workers, GA/RYSE (ILP) coordinators, group homes and Homeless Liaisons in the six priority county school districts.

HOMELESSNESS
Students enrolled in eligible school districts that have been assigned a homeless liaison under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program.

https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/

FOSTER CARE
Students enrolled in eligible school districts that have been assigned a Case Worker and/or Independent Living Specialist (ILS) with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) or eligible for or awarded Foster Care Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds.

For additional, clarifying information:
Students that are currently in foster care (at time of referral by school system or self-referral) or have been in foster care for at least six months after the age of 14 are eligible to enroll in GEAR UP Priority services. The following parenting/living arrangements or any combination of the following arrangements currently or during the 6+ month period in the past will be considered as being/having been in “foster care”:

1. Partnership Parents provide temporary homes for children in foster care. They are expected to work in partnership with birth families and act as parenting mentors whenever possible. PPs share parenting responsibilities with birth parents through “parenting opportunities.” Parenting opportunities are any favorable times, occasions, situations, or conditions that allow a parent to safely teach, support, nurture, discipline, care for, or guide children.

2. Relative Partnership Parents are related by blood, marriage, or adoption to children placed in their home. They provide temporary homes for their relative’s children who are in foster care. They may also serve non-relative children. RPPs follow the same approval process as regular PPs and have all the benefits and responsibilities associated with being a PP, including full foster care per diem reimbursement. RPPs have the same expectations as PPs.
3. Adoptive Parents are “forever families” who make a lifelong commitment to a child. They serve children whose birth parents’ parental rights have been voluntarily surrendered or terminated by a court, thus making the children legally free for adoption. Adoptive Parents may also be relatives in which case they are called Relative Adoptive Parents.

4. Adoptive Parent-Legal Risk Parents are adoptive parents who accept for placement children who are not completely legally free for adoption and thus, legal risk exists in accepting the placement.

5. Resource Parents (RPs) are a hybrid of a Resource Parent and an adoptive parent. They act as both a PP (temporary foster care placement) and are willing to become the adoptive parent (permanent family) for the child. Children placed with RPs have a concurrent permanency plan, meaning that two permanency goals are being pursued simultaneously. At least one of the permanency goals is adoption with the RP named as the permanency resource. RPs must be able to concurrently fulfill the roles of being a PP and an adoptive parent. A RP may also be a relative in which case they are called Relative Resource Parents.

6. Interstate Compact-related are caregivers serving children through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) are known as ICPC-Partnership Parents, ICPC- Adoptive Parents, ICPC-Relative Partnership Parents and ICPC-Relative Adoptive Parents.

ETV req: https://embarkgeorgia.org/etv

Types of parents: http://fostergeorgia.com/types-of-parents/