

*California GEAR UP Traducelo Ahora Project Executive Summary*

California GEAR UP works with schools across California to build the organizational capacity needed to create a sustainable college-going culture. To further this endeavor, California GEAR UP provides schools with tools and resources to help each school achieve its individual goals for change. This is a pilot project evaluation of IBM's Traducelo Ahora Spanish-English translation software as another potential resource for California GEAR UP schools. The goal of this project was to determine whether Traducelo Ahora could assist schools with increasing communication with their Spanish-speaking families in order to increase parental involvement, which has been demonstrated to be positively associated with college-going behavior.

This pilot project provided access and support for the Traducelo Ahora program to four schools in the Los Angeles area that had a large population of Hispanic and English Language Learner (ELL) students from February to December 2009. This evaluation found that teachers at these schools are not using email to communicate with parents and did not use this feature of the program. In addition, this evaluation found that the Traducelo Ahora program has serious translation errors and should not be used without review of a fluent Spanish-speaker. However, this evaluation did uncover that there is a high demand for Spanish-English translation services for both school staff and parents. In the absence of a better alternative, this evaluation recommends providing access with limited support and total transparency about the translation limitations to all the California GEAR UP schools during the resource rotations during the forums and institutes.