



ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Definition/Purpose

Entrepreneurship education seeks to prepare people, especially youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and who contribute to economic development and sustainable communities.

Entrepreneurship education introduces students to the rewards and risks of owning or operating a business enterprise. It includes instruction in planning, organizing, managing, and financing a small business.

Outcomes/Results

Improved student performance Youth perform better in school when they are interested and engaged in key subjects. More than 70% of American high school students have interest in owning their own business. Students in entrepreneurship education programs show improved school performance and more ambitious goals for life after school.

Improved school performance These programs help schools comply with various requirements such as those found in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law by actively engaging **all** students in the education process. Educators are finding that entrepreneurship training encourages youth to employ sophisticated math and science concepts in real-life situations.

Enhanced economic competitiveness Entrepreneurs are the engines of America's economy, accounting for the vast majority of new job creation and the development of new innovations.

Entrepreneurship (continued)

Essential Practices

Small Business Entrepreneurship (BE6235/ME6615) is a course offered in the NC CTE Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12. Students may enroll in Small Business Entrepreneurship after completing two technical credits in the same pathway. This promotes a focused and clear career path for students interested in owning a business in a specific field.

In addition to the course focusing on Small Business Entrepreneurship, NC CTE offers courses including a capstone project focusing on entrepreneurship:

- Foods II – Advanced (25% of course weight)
- Apparel Development II (30% of course weight)

The Early Childhood Education I and II course sequence prepares students to establish an early childcare business or education program.

A statewide articulation agreement awards college credit to high school students meeting specific criteria for performance in the Small Business Entrepreneurship course.

North Carolina Community Colleges offer six three-credit courses specializing in entrepreneurship. These courses are **in addition to** the many course offerings in the traditional business, marketing, and retailing areas.

Each Community College hosts a Small Business Center forming a business support network across the state. There are a total of 58 Small Business Centers in North Carolina.

High School Enrollment and Programs

Since 2003, enrollment in the Small Business Entrepreneurship course alone has increased over 40% statewide. In 2007-08, over 10,900 students completed the Small Business Entrepreneurship course.

For the academic year ending in 2008, over 200 high schools across the state offered the Small Business Entrepreneurship course.

Through courses offered in the Standard Course of Study, students have the opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations. These organizations offer competitive events allowing students to put skill to practice in real-world situations, judged by practitioners from business and industry.

Leadership

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