

Student-Led Enterprise

Commitment

Role	Commitment
Student	Moderate to substantial commitment; ongoing school-based engagement
Educator	Moderate to substantial commitment; ongoing school-based engagement
Employer	Light to moderate commitment; input in design and potential to provide instruction and feedback

Arrangement Information

What

Student-led enterprises are school-based businesses in which students create and operate a venture that mirrors a real business or industry. Typically conducted on a school campus, these enterprises provide students with opportunities to produce goods or deliver services for school or community members while generating revenue to support the program, the school, or a Career Technical Student Organization. Through these experiences, students apply technical skills; develop career-ready practices; and gain firsthand experience with business operations, customer service, and project management.

When

Student-led enterprises are most commonly operated by high school students.

Time Commitment

Student-led enterprises are typically integrated into a student's school day and do not require a substantial time investment beyond regular preparation and engagement for the classroom. Because these enterprises are typically sustained over a school year, the time commitment for educators is greater, and they may spend time ensuring that the business meets all local and state requirements and that its operations are well connected to the curriculum. Employer participation varies, with opportunities to both contribute to the design of the enterprise and provide training and feedback on its operation over time.

Benefits

For **students**, student-led enterprises provide opportunities to develop and apply essential workplace skills and behaviors in a simulated business setting. Student-led enterprises can be especially valuable in communities with limited access to employers or other work-based learning opportunities.

For **educators**, student-led enterprises offer an engaging, low-risk way to connect classroom learning to real-world applications while helping students build career-ready practices. These experiences create meaningful opportunities for students to take ownership of their work, apply technical skills, and practice entrepreneurship. In many cases, student-led enterprises provide valuable goods or services to the school or community, with revenue reinvested into the program, business operations, or student opportunities.

For **employers**, student-led enterprises provide a flexible way to engage with students and help shape the future workforce. These partnerships allow employers to influence skill development, increase awareness of career opportunities within their industry, and build connections with emerging talent while requiring less time and coordination than other work-based learning experiences.