Entrepreneurial Learning strategy

Creating a mindset for world class education
Minister’s foreword

South Australia’s education system has the unique potential to help energise a new generation who see entrepreneurialism not as something that a few people ‘do’, but rather as a way of working and thinking that underpins something that everyone can ‘be’.

The creativity, problem-solving and collaboration that are part of entrepreneurialism are critical not only to the founding and future of new businesses in our state, but also to the capacity of the future workforce to work in, work for and work with these entrepreneurial ventures.

Entrepreneurial learning will benefit and enrich the lives of individuals, strengthen the economy and contribute to the development of a prosperous and interconnected society. It will make a major contribution to the future of South Australia.

The education system will demonstrate the value and importance of entrepreneurialism to all children and young people. We know that education needs to do more than just prepare young people for the world of work. It needs to equip students with the skills they need to become active, responsible and engaged citizens who can thrive in and shape their world.

One key goal of the strategy is to promote entrepreneurial mindsets in students, to equip them with aspirations and with tools that will be invaluable if they choose to start their own business.

But it is about more than this. Young people can also be entrepreneurial within the organisations that employ them, assisting in creatively solving problems and working innovatively to develop ideas. And the best place to start that thinking is at school.

This Entrepreneurial Learning strategy aims to develop an entrepreneurial mindset in our young people that helps them succeed. In doing so, we will see that their individual successes can lead to a thriving, entrepreneurial future for South Australia.

We are about modernising our schools and equipping our students for the challenges of the 21st century, where innovation and problem solving skills are at a premium.

This strategy brings the state government’s agenda for jobs and skills together with the Education department’s school improvement model and other priority programs.

The long term outcome of successful entrepreneurial education will see many more young South Australians setting their sights on starting their own business or on being part of a workforce capable of directly and indirectly supporting the efforts of business founders, owners and managers to generate jobs, which in turn leads to economic growth and prosperity.

Hon John Gardner MP
Minister for Education
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Our strategy
To succeed in this ever-changing world, students need to be able to think like entrepreneurs: resourceful, flexible, creative, and global.

Professor Yong Zao, Foundation Distinguished Professor, University of Kansas

Building an entrepreneurial generation

By thinking critically and creatively, and being innovative in problem solving, everyone can be an entrepreneur.1 Entrepreneurs don’t just start new businesses. They can work in, work for and work with businesses, and help turn them into entrepreneurial ones. Entrepreneurs achieve success by applying knowledge, creatively and resourcefully; be it in STEM, business, creative arts, trade, social, professional or any other type of knowledge. This ability is recognised globally as critical to 21st century learning and citizenship.

From curiosity and creativity, entrepreneurs are motivated to turn their interest into action by being optimistic, hardworking and self-aware, by seeking guidance and advice when they need it, and by themselves acting based on self-confidence, resourcefulness and resilience.

Entrepreneurial outcomes can be good decisions made or problems avoided, new businesses, better products or social change. Entrepreneurial thinkers persist even after an outcome is achieved, continuously seeking new opportunities to be creative and to solve problems.

The Entrepreneurial Learning strategy is built on a strong evidence base of local, national and global experience and best practice. It supports the provision of world-class teaching, facilities and experiences that young people need to develop the entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and attitudes that will create and contribute to the evolving global economy. Entrepreneurial learning will be driven by entrepreneurial teaching, to achieve high quality outcomes for children and young people.

The vision of the strategy is that these entrepreneurial skills are learned, practiced and used every day, in every lesson, in every area of the education curriculum.

As part of South Australia’s 10-year educational transformation goal, entrepreneurial skills will be embedded into all learning activities so that every young person is empowered to achieve their very best.

1. OECD, 2018 The Future of Education and Skills Education 2030
Our goals
Young people engage in learning that develops an entrepreneurial mindset

We will support all teachers and leaders by developing professional and curriculum resources to help embed entrepreneurial learning into every learning area, and provide opportunities to engage their students in targeted entrepreneurial learning.

New ways of thinking develop through everyday experiences in every classroom and learning area. Teachers and leaders can demonstrate how entrepreneurial learning is critical to building a school culture in which children and young people can confidently explore these new ways of thinking in everything they do.

What we will do

• Teaching and learning resources for entrepreneurial learning will be available to every teacher and leader.

• Professional development and mentoring opportunities will support teachers to implement entrepreneurial learning in ways that suit their learning area, students and contexts.

• Industry networks, business forums and innovation projects will be available to help teachers, leaders and students to grow their understanding of entrepreneurial thinking.

• New entrepreneurial subjects and resources will be available to SACE students, with support to help teachers deliver these subjects.

• Entrepreneurial VET package information, including Certificate III in Micro Business will be made available to schools, along with other VET programs with particular industry relevance.

Entrepreneurial learning empowers young people not just to own their own business, but to own their own future.
Entrepreneurial learning develops entrepreneurial attributes that promote the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar and non-routine contexts.

Schools embed entrepreneurial learning in their curriculum and culture

Five secondary schools have been selected as specialist entrepreneurial schools to work within their alliances and to help all other schools add value to their entrepreneurial learning.

These 5 schools will be supported to develop resources across years 7 to 12, while their expert staff and high quality resources will be shared and used across the state. These specialist schools will also become destination schools for aspiring business and social entrepreneurs. For young people whose entrepreneurial mindset has a commercial or community ambition, these schools will also offer a specialised stream through which they can participate in a range of enterprise-focused activities and experiences.

What we will do

• Embed an entrepreneurial learning leader and teaching expert within the 5 specialist schools, to champion, model and deliver entrepreneurial teaching and learning.
• Develop entrepreneurial learning curriculum and pedagogy resources.
• Develop dedicated entrepreneurial spaces and IT capacity, and provide spaces for interaction with business, industry and community entrepreneurs.
• Help specialist schools to build partnerships with businesses, industries and communities locally, nationally and globally.
• Make available to all schools enterprise projects, such as the Foundation for Young Australians’ $20 Boss program and the Shark Tank eSchool powered by the University of Adelaide and MIE Lab, to encourage student innovation.
South Australia benefits from entrepreneurial young people

Entrepreneurially-minded young people will have the attitudes and skills they need to successfully navigate the challenges and opportunities of an ever changing world.

Today’s students will enter an environment of jobs yet to be created, technologies yet to be invented and challenges yet to be imagined. Research suggests that careers are already moving away from linear pathways, with young people expected to have up to 17 jobs across 5 careers in their lifetime. This strategy will help them negotiate and thrive in this dynamic environment.

What we will do

• Specialist schools will identify pathway opportunities for young people and support effective career counselling processes.
• Professional development for teachers and leaders will explore how further education and career planning can be included in entrepreneurial teaching within different learning areas.
• Interactions with social, commercial and business professionals will help students understand the role of entrepreneurial thinking in career management and outcomes.
• Specialist schools will connect with the South Australian Office of the Chief Entrepreneur, and with the Lot 14 innovation hub.
• Industry networks, business forums and other events and experiences will be led by specialist schools, and will be open to participation by all schools.

Entrepreneurial learning creates and enhances awareness and energy amongst young people about the power of entrepreneurship and the possibilities available to them.
Our approach

A staged approach with outcomes

In 2019
1. Five specialist schools will be established.
2. The secondary alliances across the 5 specialist schools will be supported to build capacity to deliver entrepreneurial education.

In 2020
1. Specialist programs will be available for students.
2. Industry forums will engage with specialist schools and alliance schools.

From 2021 onwards
1. Specialist entrepreneurial schools continue to refine curriculum and build teacher capacity with the alliances and across all schools.
2. The number of teachers undertaking entrepreneurial professional development will increase.
3. Enrolments in and completion of entrepreneurial SACE subjects and VET courses will increase.

Measuring success
Success will be measured by the number of:
- students enrolled in entrepreneurial learning
- teachers trained in entrepreneurial education
- entrepreneurial projects carried out in schools
- new businesses founded by graduates of public schools
- partnerships between graduates of the school system and business.
In summary

Every school with secondary enrolments

Receive support to promote and encourage entrepreneurial mindsets.

• SACE subjects and VET qualifications
• teaching and learning resources and support provided by specialist schools
• Foundation for Young Australians’ $20 Boss program, and Shark Tank eSchool powered by the University of Adelaide and MIE Lab.

41 Secondary alliance schools connected with specialist schools

Receive support to integrate entrepreneurial teaching and learning.

• direct invitations to forums and events
• program fees for professional development
• support to develop business and community partnerships.

5 Specialist entrepreneurial schools

Receive funding to develop and share entrepreneurial learning resources, facilities and expertise.

• an entrepreneurial leader and expert teacher
• entrepreneurial spaces with IT capability
• funding for student start-ups
• professional learning opportunities.

The specialist entrepreneurial schools will be required to build capacity across all secondary schools.