Summer and afterschool programs across Ohio create opportunities for students to learn about entrepreneurship, solve problems in their communities, and develop and pitch new business ideas.

The Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) and the Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI) encourage you to add entrepreneurship education to your program. Students will:

- **Build and hone real-life skills, as well as develop new interests**, while learning in flexible environments with adult support.
- **Get college and career ready**. Entrepreneurship is a strategy for meeting academic, college and career readiness, STEM, and other program goals.
- **Learn to problem-solve**. The YEI curriculum focuses on building an entrepreneurial mindset, including viewing problems as opportunities and developing persuasive pitches for business ideas.

*Read about Ohio’s programs that are making a difference for our kids’ future:*

**Mentorship**

Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries (HRNM), Youngstown, OH

HRNM’s Mission Possible Kids Impacting Youngstown...and the World! summer program gave 7th-11th grade students the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship, create their own pitches, and then mentor younger students in creating their own pitches. The final event was a community celebration, which featured 39 students competing for prizes and sharing their passions, pitches, and posters. Two teams of TV reporters attended and then showcased the program on the news.

**Lessons on Arts and Business**

Students Overcoming Adverse Realities (SOAR), Columbus, OH

The week-long SOAR program for immigrant and refugee teens featured daily guest speakers and field trips. A trip to the Columbus Museum of Art sharpened creativity, and a visit to the farmers market gave youth an opportunity to talk with small business owners.

**Increased ELA Skills**

YOUmedia Young Entrepreneur Program, Springfield City Schools, Springfield, OH

The Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge Toolkit provided a framework for integration of written and oral ELA standards. High school students enjoyed opportunities to work in teams, which fostered a strong sense of community and increased attendance in the program. It was also a great way to incorporate persuasive strategies that students learned in the class into real-world scenarios.
Engagement with Community Stakeholders

Community Building Institute (CBI), Middletown, OH

CBI staff connected with Middletown Economic Development (MED) to invite its members who are entrepreneurs to serve as guest speakers and judges for CBI’s student pitch contest. The relationship between CBI and MED continues to develop, resulting in access to additional mentors and resources for students.

Exposure to Policymakers

Ohio University’s Kids on Campus (KOC), Athens, OH

Representative Jay Edwards, Majority Whip of the Ohio House of Representatives, had fun judging students’ pitches at KOC’s pitch contest. Program staff were excited for students to share their creative business ideas with Representative Edwards, who represents several counties in southeast Ohio.

Preparation for College and Career

Vineyard Community Center, Westerville, OH

Students from multiple schools participated in Vineyard’s summer program. The Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge Toolkit helped students build relationships; strengthen teamwork, public speaking, research, and project planning skills; and create a sense of community, while preparing them for transitions to careers and college.

Join Us!

OAN and YEI are partnering with the Ohio Department of Education to create a process for high school students to earn an OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal in out-of-school time (OST) programs using entrepreneurship as part of an alternate pathway to satisfying Ohio graduation requirements.

About OAN and YEI

OAN is the leading voice for Ohio’s out-of-school time field, and YEI is a national leader in building entrepreneurship ecosystems. OAN and YEI have experience working collaboratively with youth-serving organizations to deliver high-quality learning experiences and products and services to educators and youth-development professionals.

OAN and YEI invite you to add entrepreneurship education to your program and can help you get started. OAN and YEI support the delivery of entrepreneurship education with free curricula, including the K-12 Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge Toolkit, professional development, on-demand technical assistance, professional learning communities, and more.

If you are interested in discussing entrepreneurship education opportunities, please contact Liz Nusken, liz@oanohio.org or Kelly Biggar, kbiggar@us.edu.