

# ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE: EDUCATION CAN STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurs report that one of their biggest challenges is knowing how to start, operate, and grow a business. This can present an especially high hurdle because many entrepreneurs were not taught the skills needed to successfully launch a business during their formal education.

These challenges become particularly difficult for those who lack personal and professional networks that can provide the insight and know-how needed to navigate life as an entrepreneur.

**Included in [America's New Business Plan](#) are actionable steps that policymakers and educators can take to ensure that every student is able to discover, pursue, and realize their real-world potential.**

## How to Prepare the Youth of Today to Be the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

- **Provide students with real world learning experiences** and industry-recognized credentials, and monitor state funding formula implications that support real world learning within districts. ([This video](#) offers insight into the benefits of real world learning.)
- **Ensure all students acquire basic financial literacy skills** through direct experiences relevant to life and work before completing high school.
- **Monitor and evolve federal grant programs** to support two-year, four-year, and qualified credentialing acquisition for students.
- **Ensure local educational institutions work closely with employers**, especially new businesses, to align curricula with current and emerging workforce needs.

### BRIGHT SPOT

The Real World Learning Initiative, centered in the Kansas City region, is a collaborative of more than 30 districts and charters in Kansas and Missouri. The regional partners are aligned around one commitment: By 2030, all regional high school students will graduate with a market value asset — an industry valued and recognized skill acquired in high school that creates a more seamless transition from school to postsecondary education and/or the workplace.

To accomplish this, every school in the initiative is redesigning its curriculum to ensure that students have opportunities such as internships, client-connected projects, dual credit, regionally vetted industry-recognized credentials, and entrepreneurial experiences.

**Check out the [Real World Learning initiative](#) to see how practical experiences can help students learn the necessary skills to become future entrepreneurs and visit [StartUsUpNow.org](#) to learn about policies to equip all entrepreneurs with the know-how to start a business.**