

THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO SUPPORTING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

As a school librarian, you have a unique opportunity to support young entrepreneurs in your community. By providing access to resources, fostering a creative and innovative environment, and connecting students with mentors and experts, you can help inspire and guide the next generation of business leaders. Whether your students are interested in starting their own companies or simply learning more about entrepreneurship, your role as a librarian is crucial in helping them develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. This guide offers resources and some practical ideas for supporting and encouraging young entrepreneurs in your school.

Ideas

- **Provide access to resources:** Stock your library with books, magazines, and online databases that cover topics related to entrepreneurship, such as business plans, marketing strategies, financial management, and leadership. Also, consider partnering with local business organizations and experts to bring in speakers and resources that can offer guidance and advice.
- **Create a collaborative environment:** Set up spaces in the library where students can work together on projects and ideas. Encourage students to share their ideas and offer feedback to each other. You can also organize workshops and brainstorming sessions to help students develop their ideas further.
- **Connect students with mentors and experts:** Reach out to local entrepreneurs and business leaders and invite them to mentor students or speak at events. You can also connect students with alumni who have started their own businesses or work in related fields.
- **Offer support and guidance:** Be available to students who are interested in entrepreneurship and offer guidance and feedback on their ideas. Help students to research and refine their ideas, and connect them with resources and tools that can help them bring their ideas to fruition.

By providing access to resources, creating a collaborative environment, connecting students with mentors and experts, and offering support and guidance, you can help young entrepreneurs in your school develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the business world.

There are several resources available for students who are interested in entrepreneurship. Here are some places where they can start:

1. **School Library:** Your school library is a great place to start, of course! Supply it with books, magazines, and online databases that cover topics related to entrepreneurship.
2. **Public Libraries:** Public libraries also have resources on entrepreneurship that are available to students. Students can check out books, access online databases, and attend events and workshops.
3. **Small Business Administration (SBA):** The SBA provides resources and tools for young entrepreneurs, including information on how to start and manage a business, financing options, and training programs.
4. **Local Business Organizations:** Students can reach out to local business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce or small business associations. These organizations often provide resources, mentoring, and networking opportunities.
5. **Online Resources:** The internet is a vast resource for information on entrepreneurship. Students can access online resources such as TED Talks, YouTube videos, blogs, and websites dedicated to entrepreneurship. Here are a few:
 - **The 9 Business Resources for Young Entrepreneurs:**
<https://www.uschamber.com/co/start/strategy/business-resources-for-young-entrepreneurs>
 - **20 Business Resources for Young Entrepreneurs:**
<https://howtostartanllc.com/young-entrepreneur-resources>
 - **Young Entrepreneur Institute:**
<https://www.youngentrepreneurinstitute.org/>
 - **Teen CEO Competition:**
<https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/communications/news/news-details/~board/2017-18-announcements/post/calling-all-teen-entrepreneurs-teen-ceo-business-competition-offers-funding-for-teen-small-business-owners>
 - **Libraries that Build Business:**
<https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2022/05/new-book-spotlights-ways-advance-entrepreneurship-public-libraries>
 - **Top 7 Ways Libraries Can Support Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs:**
<https://www.ebsco.com/blogs/ebscopost/2177957/top-7-ways-libraries-can-support-small-businesses-and-entrepreneurs>
 - **The Impact of School Library on Development of Entrepreneurial Skills in Students:**
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336403253_The_impact_of_school_library_on_development_of_entrepreneurial_skills_in_students