

Cabarrus LINK

Strengthening the connection between CCS schools and our local businesses

Cabarrus LINK, a CCEF program, harnesses the power of the business school partnership to benefit student learning. Businesses bring their expertise and time to schools enhancing the real-world context for the project. Projects allow students to explore various careers, build technical skills and practice professional skills such as teamwork, communications and problem-solving.

During the LINK Day event, schools and businesses meet in a networking session to finalize the project concept and develop a project plan to be implemented during the Spring 2020 semester. The event will wrap up with the Innovative Showcase where teams will “pitch” their innovative project ideas to a panel of judges for funding. All schools receive a minimum of \$1,000 towards their project with the Grand Prize Winner receiving a bonus \$500 in funding.

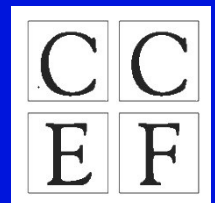


What Teachers are Saying about Cabarrus LINK?

“Think of a project you really want to do and don’t think is possible and Cabarrus LINK makes it possible!”

“Cabarrus LINK pushed me to make my dream for students a reality!”

“Our business partner took our project up a notch that was incredibly impactful!”





Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of the program?

Through this program, CCS students will engage in a hands-on, real-world context learning experience that explores careers, builds technical skills and practices essential (also known as professional or soft skills) while supporting curriculum objectives.

What type of projects will be selected?

We are seeking hands-on learning projects for students to understand how their learning applies in a real-world context. Two different types of projects are typically submitted, although some have components of each.

- ◆ Career—Oriented and Skills Development—builds specific skills such as video game programming, designing and building a launching mechanism or becoming a photojournalist and explores careers associated with these skills
- ◆ Professional Skills Development—these projects focus on one or more twenty-first century skills needed by everyone in the workplace. The hands-on project such as the news team or kindness garden is a tool to help students develop and practice this skill.

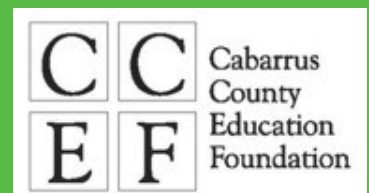
Examples of potential projects include creating an aquaponics garden, developing a Podcast, designing and coding a temperature sensing robot to be used in search and rescue missions, studying global cultures through a United Nations Council, etc. Be creative!

What is the Cabarrus LINK Day?

The Cabarrus LINK Day is a networking time for schools and businesses to plan to put their project into action. Schools and businesses are challenged to see how the initial project idea can be transformed to make an even bigger impact. The first part of the event gives schools and business partners one-on-one time to finalize the project concept and begin work on the project plan. The second portion of the event is the Innovative Showcase.

What is the Innovative Showcase?

Schools are invited to share their project with a panel of judges and fellow participants in a “Shark-Tank” type presentation. Each project that presents during the Innovative Showcase will receive funding toward their project. A panel of judges will select a Grand Prize Winner who will receive bonus funding toward their project.





Frequently Asked Questions

How much funding will be awarded?

All projects receive a baseline amount of \$1,000 in funding to be used toward project implementation. The Grand Prize Winner will receive \$1,500.

What is the role of the school in this program?

The school is responsible for providing the project idea, identifying a project leader, implementing the project and ensuring all requirements are met according to deadlines.

What is the role of the business partner in this program?

The business partner brings expertise and time to bring the project to life. There is no expectation of a financial investment in the project by the business partner. The role and responsibilities of the business partner will be project-dependent and determine in partnership with the school during the project planning phase. It is expected that the business partner will provide knowledge and skills to enhance the project and support the project as needed with volunteers. The commitment by the business partner is just for the specific project, but we invite our business partners to make a longer term commitment if they so desire.

How do I register my school to participate?

Participation is open to all Cabarrus County Schools. Steps to register:

1. Meet with CCEF representative to discuss potential project or attend the Cabarrus LINK Information Session on January 15, 2020. Session is drop-in from 2:30-5:30pm.
2. Complete the project profile that outlines the type of project the school is seeking assistance with and what time and talent resources you are seeking from a business partner.

Project Profile Link: http://bit.ly/LINK_Profile

Deadline: January 29th

Will All Projects be Accepted?

A maximum of 8 projects will be accepted into each cohort. If we receive more interest, a selection team will decide on which projects will participate this time. We try to roll over projects to the next cohort, if possible.





Frequently Asked Questions

How to Make my Project Likely to Happen?

To have the best opportunity for your project, the following suggestions are provided:

- ◆ Broad project. The more potential business partners that can support your project, the more likely CCEF will be able to get a commitment from a business partner. In contrast, if your project is very specific and there is only one potential business partner in the area, it might prove more difficult to get a commitment from that particular business partner.
- ◆ Apply early. The earlier we receive your project, the sooner we can begin reaching out to potential partners. It takes time to contact and hear back from potential business partners. With the short time-frame, often we have to postpone projects due to time crunch trying to reach out to new partners after the initial prospect decides they do not have the capacity to do the project at this time.

What is the role of the Project Leader?

The project leader serves as the primary contact for both the Cabarrus County Education Foundation and the local business partner. This person will need to respond to emails and phone calls in a timely manner to ensure a positive experience for our business partners. They will also be responsible for meeting all program requirements.

Spring 2020 Cohort Dates

January 29	Project Profiles Due
February 24	Cabarrus LINK Day @ Charlotte Motor Speedway
March 11	Project Plans Due to CCEF
May 31	Projects Completed



