

"3DE is really revolutionizing how we teach students. It's showing students how what they're learning in the classroom relates to the real world."

- KATIE DAVIS
VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE,
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER



KEY STATS AND SUCCESS

44

SCHOOLS

With 3DE programs in the 2022-2023 school year.

+34%

INCREASE IN GRADUATION RATES

Based on the matriculation of 3DE students from 9th grade, compared to the 2017 graduation rates at those respective schools. Aggregate averages across schools.

-42%

FEWER CASES OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Measured as the number of students with 10+ unexcused absences as compared to school peers, indicating increasing levels of engagement. Aggregate averages across schools.

95%

STABILITY RATE OF 3DE STUDENT BODY

Indicating a high degree of "stickiness" with 3DE families and students, even in communities with historically high transiency.



Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana
550 East Wallen Road, Fort Wayne IN 46825
JANI.org | (260) 484-2543



Junior Achievement™
of Northern Indiana

THE FUTURE OF
EDUCATION IS HERE.





3DE is an innovative approach that is transforming the high school experience.

In a 3DE program, the learning experience is re-engineered to be more relevant, experiential, and authentically connected to the world that exists beyond the classroom walls. By giving education real-world context, 3DE empowers, inspires, and better prepares students for life after graduation.

CURRICULUM DETAILS

The 3DE Difference

3DE helps students construct meaning, develop competencies, and strengthen core academic skills through a guided exploration of authentic, real-world business case challenges. The 3DE model gives students repeated, relevant opportunities to apply their knowledge and solve problems.

COHORTS

In the 3DE model, teachers and students are grouped into small cohorts, which builds a sense of connection, camaraderie, and trust. 3DE coursework is interconnected, supported by an interdisciplinary team of five to eight teachers. This close-knit, self-contained structure gives students the opportunity to fail safely and “fail up,” which boosts their confidence and engagement.

CASES

Learning and curriculums are built around real-world, real-time business case challenges from regional and national companies. This approach connects students with local business professionals, exposes them to life outside the classroom, prepares them for entry into the workforce, and makes lessons more relevant, memorable, and engaging.

COLLABORATION

3DE encourages student collaboration through small group discussions and facilitated debates. This approach boosts social and emotional skills, gives students an active role in their learning, and closely mimics the real world—to more fully prepare students for a future in the workforce.

COMPETENCIES

In-depth business case challenges form the foundation of the 3DE approach. By centering an interdisciplinary curriculum around these case challenges, 3DE boosts comprehension, teaches 21st-century competencies, and doubles the learning opportunities of a traditional classroom. Core academics—like math, science, history and English—are applied to real-world scenarios, making them memorable, approachable, and relevant. The 3DE model helps students develop valuable skills by encouraging creativity, cultural agility, critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving, and self-direction.



SAMPLE CASE CHALLENGE:

Students are told that Steel Dynamics (SDI), a local steel producer, is trying to hire more employees. Representatives from SDI visit the classroom to share background on the company and its recruitment challenges and goals. Over the next several weeks, students work with teachers in their core subjects to solve the case challenge. In their math class, they may generate statistics that demonstrate the company's safety record. In their social studies class, they may assess the demographics of the SDI workforce and brainstorm ways to connect with other segments of the population. In their language arts class, they may write a recruitment ad or brochure. At the culmination of the case challenge, students prepare a presentation for their teachers, peers, and SDI employees.



Working Together for Transformation



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3DE is made possible through a unique partnership between the national 3DE team, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS), and regional businesses and professionals.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WILL INVEST \$4 MILLION TO INTRODUCE THE 3DE MODEL IN ALL FIVE FWCS HIGH SCHOOLS.

The curriculum will be rolled out one grade level at a time, in one of two ways—either for an entire school or as a “school within a school” that runs parallel to the traditional curriculum.

This approach makes use of existing FWCS resources while creating opportunity for ALL students—to ultimately transform secondary education throughout the entire school system. Along the way, the national 3DE team will provide ongoing resources and support, including curriculum development, case study design, case partner onboarding, instructional support, and teacher training and coaching.

“3DE is preparing students for that next step after high school. If students have a better idea of where they’re going, and have the skill set to do so, we all benefit.”

- DR. MARK DANIEL | SUPERINTENDENT, FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Building Bridges to Regional Businesses

Because real-world case challenges form the core of the 3DE model, participation from regional businesses is essential.

Businesses and local professionals are invited into the classroom to introduce case challenges, provide background on their company, check in with students during the challenge, and observe students’ final presentations.

Your partnership can transform our region.

3DE STRENGTHENS OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY BY:

- Helping businesses build relationships with potential future employees.
- Giving graduates both a diploma and a certification.
- Fueling skills that drive economic competitiveness.
- Generating thousands of workforce-ready graduates.
- Improving talent retention in our region.
- Reaching ALL students, not just the highest achievers.
- Exposing students to a variety of real-world career pathways.
- Preparing students for a rapidly changing economy.
- Expanding students’ opportunities after graduation.