



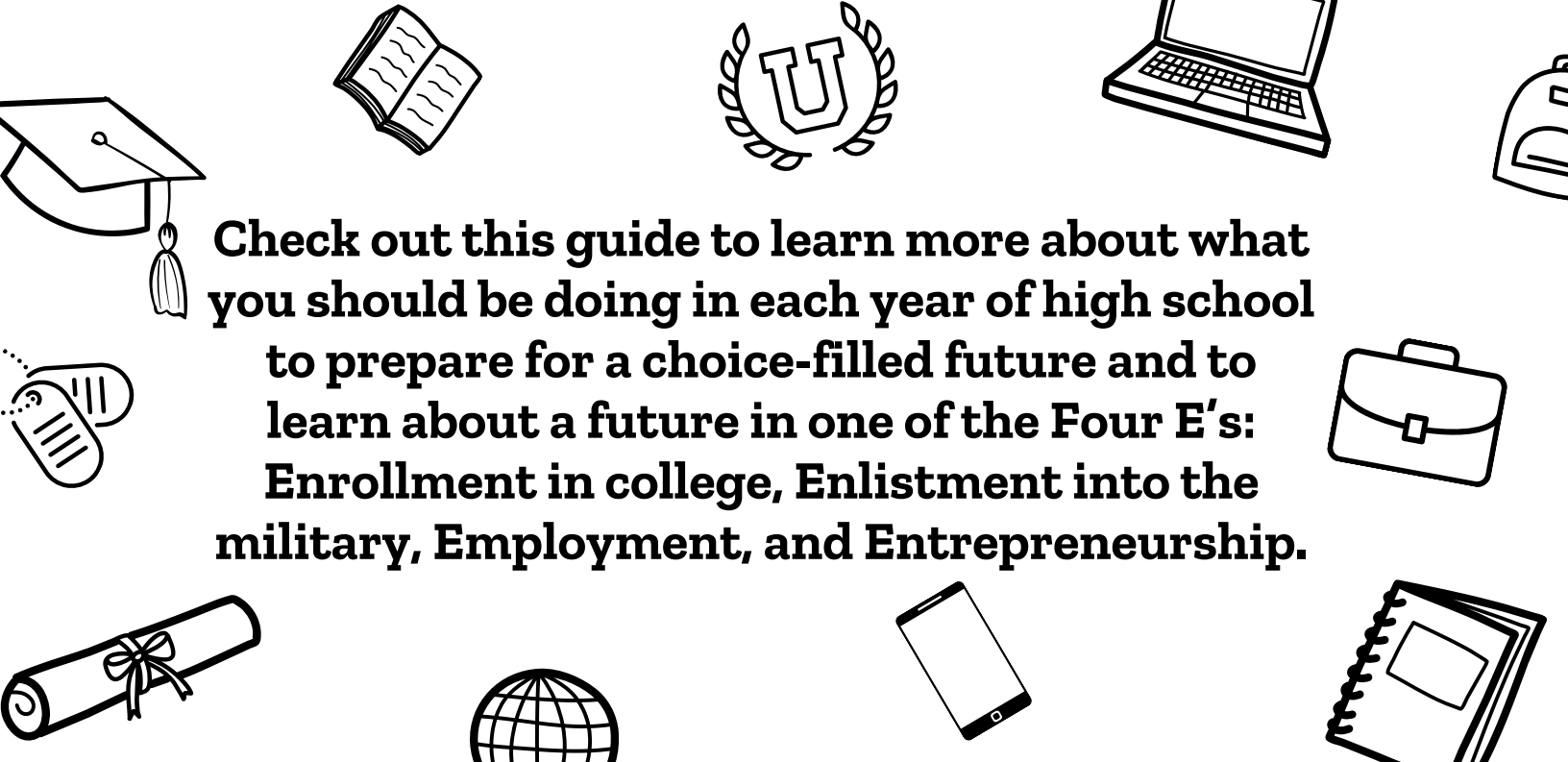
Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF METRO ATLANTA

YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF METRO ATLANTA
IS HERE TO HELP YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN ►►►



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**
OF METRO ATLANTA

High School Roadmap + Post-High School Opportunities Guide



Check out this guide to learn more about what you should be doing in each year of high school to prepare for a choice-filled future and to learn about a future in one of the Four E's: Enrollment in college, Enlistment into the military, Employment, and Entrepreneurship.

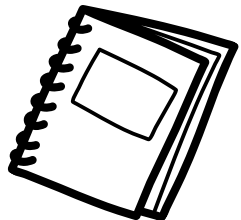


This packet contains a lot of great information! Remember you can always check out more information on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta website at:

bbbsatl.org/bigfutures/

and

bbbsatl.org/matchresources/





*Freshman
Year*

YOUR NOW LEADS TO YOUR FUTURE

9TH GRADE ROADMAP



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FALL

- Join clubs and engage.
- Maintain good grades.
- Build relationships with teachers.
- Consider the PSAT.
- Explore interests and careers.
- Begin researching scholarships.

WINTER

- Reflect on 1st semester.
- Set academic goals for 2nd semester.
- Review class schedule for the next year.
- Continue scholarship research.
- Plan for any tutoring or academic support.

SPRING

- Plan class schedule.
- Explore careers and interests.
- Look for summer enrichment programs.
- Start building high school resume.
- Prepare for upcoming AP tests.

SUMMER

- Consider online classes or academic enrichment.
- Volunteer or find part-time work.
- Relax and recharge.



*Sophomore
Year*

YOUR NOW LEADS TO YOUR FUTURE

10TH GRADE ROADMAP



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FALL

- Stay involved in clubs.
- Maintain good grades.
- Seek leadership roles.
- Attend Financial Aid Workshop.
- Consider taking PSAT.
- Start researching colleges.
- Update your resume.

WINTER

- Reflect on academic progress.
- Adjust study habits as needed.
- Review class schedule.
- Continue researching colleges.
- Consider test preparation for PSAT.

SPRING

- Register for classes.
- Take a mock ACT/SAT.
- Address academic weaknesses.
- Request Letters of Recommendation.
- Explore summer activities or work.
- Explore dual enrollment.

SUMMER

- Continue volunteering or working.
- Attend essay workshops.
- Begin the college application process.
- Visit college campuses if possible.



Junior
Year

YOUR NOW LEADS TO YOUR FUTURE

11TH GRADE ROADMAP



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FALL

- Try extracurriculars.
- Maintain GPA.
- Take the ACT/SAT.
- Attend FAFSA Workshops.
- Create a college list.
- Ask for Letters of Recommendation.



WINTER

- Review first semester grades.
- Set second semester goals.
- Continue college research.
- Work on scholarship applications.
- Prepare for mid-year exams or standardized tests.

- Register for senior year courses.
- Retake ACT/SAT if necessary
- Visit colleges.
- Work on college application essays.
- Compare financial aid and scholarships.



- Consider online classes or enrichment.
- Volunteer or work.
- Prepare college applications and essays.
- Visit campuses.
- Make a list of all college application and financial aid deadlines.

SPRING

SUMMER



Senior
Year

YOUR NOW LEADS TO YOUR FUTURE

12TH GRADE ROADMAP



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FALL

- Finalize college list.
- Check application deadlines.
- Request Letters of Recommendation.
- Work on college essays.
- Take standardized tests.
- Maintain grades.
- Submit FAFSA (opens Oct.1).
- Apply for scholarships.
- Attend college fairs.



WINTER

- Edit college essays.
- Submit early applications.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Prepare for interviews.
- Stay involved in activities.
- Decide on regular admission.
- Focus on academics.



SPRING

- Submit regular applications.
- Compare acceptances.
- Decide by May 1st.
- Pursue scholarships.
- Take remaining tests.
- Stay active.
- Plan graduation.



SUMMER

- Attend orientations.
- Complete placement exams.
- Register for classes.
- Finalize housing.
- Review finances.
- Open a checking account.
- Get supplies.
- Plan your move.
- Enjoy summer.



YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD



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EDUCATION



Enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college, trade school, or internship to pursue a degree or certificate in a field you're interested in.

BENEFITS:

Degree or Certification

Required for many jobs

Potential for high salary

Continued learning

Begin working to build valuable skills and learn what you do and don't like to help determine your next step.

EMPLOYMENT

BENEFITS:

Make money immediately

Time to explore

Schedule Flexibility

Build real-life skills



ENLISTMENT



Enlist in one of the military branches to pursue a life of service; this is usually combined with active and inactive duty and an option to decide how long to serve.

BENEFITS:

Specialized Training

Eligible for free tuition

Service to country

Eligible at age 17

Build a business plan and create a solid network to create your own business and become self-employed.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

BENEFITS:

Set your own hours

Be your own boss

Do what you love

Build your own company





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD



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YOUR FUTURE IS UP TO YOU

Where do you want to be 6 months after graduating high school?

What steps do you need to take to make that happen?

Remember, Step 1 can be researching what other steps you need to take!

1

2

3



YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD EDUCATION



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Enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college, trade school, or internship to pursue a degree or certificate in a field you're interested in.

Options	What is it?	Why Might You Want to Choose This Option?	Potential Drawbacks to Consider
4-Year College or University	Attend a university for four years to earn a bachelor's degree in a chosen field.	<u>Advanced Knowledge:</u> To gain in-depth knowledge in a specific field or profession. <u>Career Opportunities:</u> Opens doors to many career options requiring a bachelor's degree. <u>Personal Growth:</u> Develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.	<u>Cost:</u> Four-year colleges can be expensive, leading to student loan debt. <u>Time:</u> Requires a significant time commitment, delaying entry into professional workforce. <u>Academic Pressure:</u> May not suit those who prefer on-the-job learning.
2-Year College or Community College	Study at a community college for two years to earn an associate's degree or prepare for transfer to a 4-year college.	<u>Affordability:</u> Cost-effective way to start higher education and transfer to a 4-year college. <u>Flexibility:</u> Offers a range of programs and schedules for various goals. <u>Skill Development:</u> Provides practical skills for immediate job entry or transfer.	<u>Limited Degree Options:</u> Offers associate's degrees but may not cover all career paths. <u>Transfers:</u> Transferring credits to a 4-year college can be complex. <u>Stigma:</u> Some people associate community colleges with lower prestige.
Tech or Trade School	Attend a specialized school to learn hands-on skills for specific careers, often leading to a certificate or diploma.	<u>Specialized Skills:</u> Focuses on hands-on training for specific trades or professions. <u>Quick Entry:</u> Allows for rapid entry into the workforce. <u>High Demand:</u> Leads to jobs in fields with high demand for skilled workers.	<u>Narrow Focus:</u> Training is highly specialized, limiting career options. <u>Cost:</u> Tuition can be high for some programs. <u>Limited Academic Depth:</u> May not provide a broad academic education.
Internship	Gain real-world work experience in a field of interest, either as an intern (usually in a white-collar job) or apprentice (typically in a trade).	<u>Real-World Experience:</u> Provides practical experience and networking in a chosen field. <u>Skill Development:</u> Helps develop job-specific skills and industry knowledge. <u>Career Path:</u> Offers a pathway to a career with on-the-job training.	<u>Lower Pay:</u> Often pays less than full-time jobs during the training period. <u>Uncertain Job Placement:</u> No guarantee of a permanent job after the internship/apprenticeship. <u>Limited Fields:</u> Not all professions offer internship opportunities.
Gap Year with Deferred Start	Take a break from formal education to explore personal interests, travel, work, or volunteer before making long-term plans.	<u>Personal Growth:</u> Provides time for self-discovery, travel, or pursuing personal interests. <u>Life Experience:</u> Offers a break from formal education to gain life experiences. <u>Clarity:</u> Allows time to clarify career goals and interests.	<u>Career Delay:</u> May postpone career or academic advancement. <u>Financial Constraints:</u> May not be feasible for those with financial responsibilities. <u>Lack of Structure:</u> Some may find it challenging to maintain discipline and focus.

Check out the next page to learn how to get started!





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD EDUCATION



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Options	What steps should you take to pursue your path?
4-Year College or University 2-Year College or Community College Tech or Trade School	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>High School Diploma</u>- Graduating High School or achieving a GED is the last step in this process, but it's important to check early to be sure you're on-track to graduate before it's too late. Have you checked your GPA lately? (note: a GED is not accepted by all colleges)2. <u>Research Options</u>- Talk with your school counselor, teachers, your mentor and other community members about their own experience; research places that fit what you're looking for.3. <u>Apply for Financial Aid</u> - There are many forms of financial aid (scholarships and grants are words you'll hear a lot). Be sure to fill out the FAFSA in the Fall semester; you can apply for many scholarships through your high school, clubs, and post-high school institutions.4. <u>ACT/SAT or Specialized Placement Test</u>- Talk with your school counselor to learn how to sign up to take the ACT or SAT (it's a good idea to try both!)5. <u>Transcripts or Recommendations</u>- Talk to teachers who know you well to ask them to write a recommendation for you (there will be a place in your application that asks for that); additionally, talk to your school clerk about how to request your transcripts (you'll submit those with your application).6. <u>Apply</u>- Follow the application process on the school's website7. <u>Acceptance</u>- You'll submit your applications in the Winter or Spring Semester; be on the lookout for acceptance letters via mail and email after that!
Internship	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>High School Diploma</u>- Graduating High School is the last step in this process, but it's important to check early to be sure you're on-track to graduate before it's too late. Have you checked your GPA lately?2. <u>Research Options</u>- Talk with your school counselor, teachers, your mentor and other community members about their own experience; research places that fit what you're looking for.3. <u>Apply</u>- Follow the application process on the company's website4. <u>Interview</u>- Most Internships will require an interview, so be sure to practice talking about your skills, prepare your resume, and put together a professional outfit, and most importantly, be confident in yourself!
Gap Year with Deferred Start	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>College Acceptance</u>- If you're planning to defer your college start date, you'll need to be sure you have been accepted first, so be sure to follow the steps listed above for college paths.2. <u>Plan Activities</u>- Taking a year between high school graduation and college can be a great way to learn about yourself and the world, but in order to make the most of it, you'll need to plan. What are you hoping to accomplish and learn in that year? Do you have activities planned to help you achieve that?3. <u>Financial Planning</u>- Take time to consider how much the activities you have planned will cost, including travel costs, food, and where you're staying.





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD EMPLOYMENT



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Begin working to build valuable skills and learn what you do and don't like to help determine your next step.

Career Fields	Potential Careers Options	Why Might You Want to Choose This Option?	Potential Drawbacks to Consider
Skills Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrician• Plumber• Welder• HVAC Tech	If you like working with your hands and solving practical problems, this could be for you.	<p>Some may find the physical demands and potential for long hours taxing.</p> <p>Working in extreme weather conditions can be uncomfortable.</p>
Sales and Customer Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sales Representative• Customer Service Representative• Retail Sales Associate	You might enjoy helping people find what they need and making them happy.	<p>The income can be unpredictable, making financial stability a concern.</p> <p>There can be strong competition for creative jobs.</p>
Personal Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hair Stylist/ Barber• Massage Tech• Lash Tech• Nail Artist	If you like making people look and feel better, this is a rewarding option.	<p>You may not like standing for long hours or working with chemicals in some roles.</p> <p>It can be emotionally draining to manage client expectations.</p>
Transportation and Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truck Driver• Forklift Operator• Delivery Driver	For those who enjoy driving or operating machinery and want a stable job, these fields are ideal.	<p>Long hours on the road can lead to fatigue and time away from family..</p> <p>The job can be physically demanding, especially in loading and unloading cargo.</p>
Creative Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphic Designer• Photographer	If you're artistic and want to express yourself through visuals or photography, this is a good fit.	<p>The income can be unpredictable, making financial stability a concern.</p> <p>There can be strong competition for creative jobs.</p>

Check out the next page to learn how to get started!





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD EMPLOYMENT



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Career Fields	Potential Careers Options	What steps should you take to pursue your path?
Skills Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrician• Plumber• Welder• HVAC Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choose a specific trade (e.g., electrician, plumber).• Seek apprenticeships or training programs.• Gain hands-on experience and learn from experienced professionals.• Get certified or licensed if required.
Sales and Customer Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sales Representative• Customer Service Representative• Retail Sales Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look for job openings in sales or customer service.• Apply for positions that match your interests and skills.• Attend interviews and demonstrate your ability to help customers or sell products.
Personal Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hair Stylist/ Barber• Massage Tech• Lash Tech• Nail Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend a beauty school or massage therapy program.• Complete required training and obtain necessary licenses.• Look for job openings at salons, spas, or wellness centers.• Build a client base and reputation through excellent service.
Transportation and Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truck Driver• Forklift Operator• Delivery Driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain the necessary driver's license or certification (e.g., CDL for truck driving).• Apply for positions with transportation companies.• Attend training if needed.• Start your career by driving locally or regionally.
Creative Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphic Designer• Photographer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop your artistic skills and create a portfolio.• Apply for creative jobs or freelance opportunities.• Network with others in the field.• Showcase your work to potential clients or employers.





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD ENLISTMENT

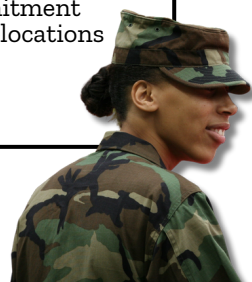


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Enlist in one of the military branches to pursue a life of service; this is usually combined with active and inactive duty and an option to decide how long to serve.

Military Branches (Pt. 1)	What do they do?	Why Might You Want to Choose This Option?	Potential Drawbacks to Consider
Army	Ground forces responsible for land-based military operations.	<p><u>Benefits:</u> Learn discipline, teamwork, leadership skills, and gain job training.</p> <p><u>Education:</u> Access to the GI Bill for college or vocational training.</p> <p><u>Travel:</u> Opportunity for deployment and overseas assignments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk and Danger• Time Commitment• Frequent Relocations• Physical and Mental Demands
Navy	Responsible for operations at sea, including ships and submarines.	<p><u>Benefits:</u> Develop strong work ethic, problem-solving, and technical skills.</p> <p><u>Education:</u> Opportunities for advanced training and college tuition assistance.</p> <p><u>Adventure:</u> Travel the world while serving on ships and submarines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended Deployments.• Physical Demands• Lack of Stability• Training Duration
Air Force	Manages aerial and space operations, including fighter jets and satellites.	<p><u>Benefits:</u> Acquire technical expertise, leadership, and management skills.</p> <p><u>Education:</u> Access to the Community College of the Air Force and other educational programs.</p> <p><u>Quality of Life:</u> Often offers comfortable living conditions and excellent amenities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Expectations• Time Commitment• Limited Control• Physical and Mental Demands•
Marines	Specializes in rapid deployment and amphibious warfare.	<p><u>Benefits:</u> Forge discipline, toughness, and adaptability.</p> <p><u>Education:</u> Limited but available tuition assistance and post-service benefits.</p> <p><u>Challenge:</u> Face physically and mentally demanding training and deployments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical and Mental Demands• Combat Exposure• Time Commitment• Frequent Relocations

Turn to the next page to learn about more Branches!





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD ENLISTMENT



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Military Branches (Pt. 2)	What do they do?	Why Might You Want to Choose This Option?	Potential Drawbacks to Consider
Space Force	Primary focus is to protect and maintain U.S. interests in space, including satellite operations, space security, space exploration support, and strategic deterrence.	<u>Cutting-Edge Technology</u> : Work with advanced space technology. <u>Space Expertise</u> : Gain specialized knowledge in space operations. <u>Career Opportunities</u> : Rapid growth with leadership potential. <u>Education</u> : Support for college or advanced training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical and Mental Demands.Combat ExposureTime CommitmentFrequent Relocations
Coast Guard	Primarily handles maritime safety, security, and environmental protection.	<u>Benefits</u> : Develop strong maritime skills and a sense of service. <u>Education</u> : Limited but still some tuition assistance and educational opportunities. <u>Diverse Roles</u> : Protect the nation's coasts, waterways, and maritime interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Risk and Danger:Time CommitmentFrequent RelocationsLimited Educational Benefits.
National Guard	Versatile force, supporting combat mission, domestic emergencies, humanitarian efforts, and homeland security operations	<u>Education</u> : Access tuition assistance and learning opportunities. <u>Service Variety</u> : Engage in diverse roles to support national interests <u>Part-Time Commitment</u> : Serve while maintaining civilian life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical DemandsDeploymentsTime CommitmentStrict DisciplineLimited Control

What steps should you take to pursue a path in any of the Branches?

- Contact Recruiter
- Study and take the ASVAB test
- Choose and complete pre requirements for chosen path
- Sign an enlistment contract
- Attend basic training





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD ENTREPRENEURSHIP



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Build a business plan and create a solid network to create your own business and become self-employed.



Entrepreneurial Fields	Potential Careers	Why Might You Want to Choose This Option?	How to Get Started	Potential Drawbacks to Consider
Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web Developer Video Game Developer Tech Repair 	Tech enthusiasts and gadget lovers may like the creative problem-solving, high income potential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define specific need in the industry 2. Research existing technologies 3. Build your version 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition • Staying updated with quickly evolving technology
Personal Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nail Techs Hair Stylist Barbers Lash Salons 	Aspiring beauty professionals may like the creative expression and potential for repeat clients.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire relevant licenses 2. Develop a business plan 3. Secure a location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing requirement • Building a clientele • Competition • Expensive start-up costs
Design & Styling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fashion Stylist Interior Designer Jewelry Maker 	Artistic expression, potential for uniqueness are ideal for creative individuals and design enthusiasts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain relevant education 2. Create a portfolio 3. Network in the industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition • Changing trends • Client preferences
Food & Beverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Truck Owner Baker Chef 	Flexibility, culinary passion, potential for diverse menus for culinary enthusiasts and food lovers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build business plan 2. Obtain permits 3. Create unique menus 4. Secure a location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health regulations • Sourcing ingredients • Expensive start-up costs
Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vintage Online Craft 	Unique inventory, income potential for creative makers and vintage enthusiasts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Source or create products 2. Set up an online store 3. Market products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory management • competition • marketing strategies

BOSS

Turn to the next page to build your business plan.





YOU HAVE A BIG FUTURE AHEAD ENTREPRENEURSHIP



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The best businesses follow well-laid plans. Use the template below to outline your business plan if you are considering a future as an Entrepreneur.



● Mission

What is your Why?

● Business Goals

How will you accomplish your mission? How will you know if you're successful?

● Company Description

What will your business do?

● Financial Analysis

What will it cost to start? Where will your funds come from? When will your business begin making money?



