



## Transferable Skills: Teacher to Entrepreneur

The Forbes top 10 futureproofed skills that appear in the psychometric profiles of both successful entrepreneurs and teachers





As a teacher you may have many of the skills and traits of an entrepreneur. You may be operating as an intrapreneur. The term "intrapreneur" is a portmanteau of the two words "internal" and "entrepreneur." Intrapreneurs are typically highly motivated individuals who have specific skill sets – as well as leadership abilities and an innovative vision that others in the corporation can get behind.

| Transferable skill | How it is used by entrepreneurs   | How it is used by teachers   |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Critical thinking  | Entrepreneurs use critical thinking skills in order to come up with a number of potential solutions to problems, and accurately assess the different solutions. They also use critical thinking skills in order to be able to constantly re-evaluate their ideas to ensure the best possible outcomes.  | Teachers are able to quickly and effectively solve problems in a range of different situations, e.g. answering difficult questions, adapting lesson plans or helping to solve conflicts between students. Teachers use critical thinking to ensure what they do is always fair and in the best interests of the students.  |
| Creativity         | Entrepreneurs are innovative, which requires high levels of creativity. They are able to develop new ideas to solve problems and can picture what a customer needs before they even know that they need it. Entrepreneurs are constantly using creativity to be able to stand out from their competitors.   | Teachers are able to think of creative ways to deliver lessons, in order to keep students engaged and cater to all different types of learners. They are able to think outside the box for alternative ways to teach new concepts.   |
| Collaboration      | Entrepreneurs collaborate with internal and external connections in order to achieve common goals. Collaborating with other businesses allows entrepreneurs to achieve much greater outcomes than if they worked in isolation.  | Teachers collaborate with a range of different people, including students, parents, and colleagues. Teachers make their students and parents know that they are on the same team and are working together in everyone's best interest. Teachers work together with their colleagues to develop best practice strategies and to reduce the overall workload.  |
| Adaptability       | Successful entrepreneurs are able to adapt their businesses in order to meet their customer's needs. They are able to see a need in the market and adjust what they are doing to meet that need. Once they are successful, they also need to continue to adapt to the market as it changes in order to continue to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. They are also able to adapt their way of doing things to increase efficiency and effectiveness. | Teachers are able to adapt quickly to many different situations. It is impossible to predict exactly what will happen in a classroom each day, so teachers are able to act accordingly and make decisions that suit the different circumstances. They are able to change lesson plans on the go if they notice it is not well suited to what their students need, and keep their classroom running if an emergency with a student means they cannot run a lesson as planned. |
| Leadership         | Entrepreneurs are leaders in their fields. They have strong leadership skills in order to build an effective team and motivate the team to achieve common objectives. Successful entrepreneurs lead with a strong vision and acknowledge the contribution that every member of the team toward their success.   | Teachers are leaders and role models in their classrooms. They can manage a diverse range of personalities and get them on board for the common goal of learning. Teachers also often act as leaders in their communities.   |
| Time management    | Entrepreneurs are able to effectively manage their time to ensure they can complete the wide range of tasks that are required of them. They often have tight deadlines to meet that they need to manage that require careful planning and time management.  | Teachers are able to manage their time effectively during lessons to ensure that they are able to cover all the necessary material. Teachers also have very limited time outside of class for planning/ marking/ reporting/ communicating with families/ etc., so it is important that they have effective time management skills.   |
| Digital literacy   | No matter the industry, entrepreneurs need to use technology effectively to increase efficiency, lower operational costs, market effectively, and improve communication with customers. Entrepreneurs also need to be digitally literate in order to identify relevant data and information in order to use it effectively.   | Teachers have a great level of digital literacy, as they need to have the skills to use different technologies to communicate, find and evaluate information, and collect, store and analyse data. Teachers also require significant digital literacy skills as they teach these skills to their students.   |