



## SouthPoint

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### **Economic education: A call to action**

**Real Time Economics** blogged on a recent poll of fifth graders through high school seniors about work, education and training. Before turning to the poll itself, I wanted to spend a moment on the group that was behind it.

The survey was performed by Gallup and **Operation HOPE**, a nonprofit that promotes financial literacy. I heard Operation HOPE executive officer John Hope Bryant speak with passion about financial literacy a year ago, and his message has stuck with me. A mission is to expand economic opportunity in underserved communities through economic education and empowerment.

In describing the poll, Real Time Economics' Brenda Cronin wrote that:

"According to the first findings, released Thursday morning, 77% of all students surveyed want to be their own boss; 45% businesses and 42% went even further, saying they agreed with the statement "I will invent something that changes the

The **press release from Gallup** describing the poll goes on:

"Despite their energy and ambitions, the Gallup-HOPE Index findings suggest many students are not getting the education need to help achieve their goals. While 87% agree that the more education they get, the more money they will make, far of practical knowledge and experiences that will be useful once they are in the workforce.

"Less than 6 in 10 students (58%) say they have a bank or credit union account with money in it, and just over half (54% them about money and banking. Half of students (50%) say their school offers classes in how to start and run a business

It is heartening to see evidence that young people remain engaged in the entrepreneurial spirit, but it's also clear that we need with the necessary tools to achieve their dreams.

The **Atlanta Fed's economic education team** and other Federal Reserve education efforts are working to meet this need by h teach economics and personal finance and also by providing rich online content and resources for teachers, parents, and student

Our latest addition to the resources available online is "**The Classroom Economist**," which offers videos, a PowerPoint lesson, i teachers' presentation of topical economic and financial issues.

In addition to the resources online, our **economic education team** reaches out to teachers directly through workshops and oth noted, we're not the only ones operating in this field. Our colleagues in the **Federal Reserve System also have many resour** economic and financial literacy.



By **Mike Chriszt**, an assistant vice president in the Atlanta Fed's research department

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