**PURPOSE:**

To feed the entrepreneurial pipeline for central Georgia through aiding students in the realization of their business concepts with the support of both educators and industry professionals serving as mentors.

**OVERVIEW:**

**Round 1:** Student entrepreneurs form teams, referred to as companies, and submit a business plan application to be judged by a panel of local business leaders. It will be a blind submission process. Out of the initial applicants, 10 will be selected to advance to the next round. Applications are due September 30th.

**Round 2:** The selected 10 companies will receive a $100 loan for seed money. They will then operate their businesses for approximately 8 weeks, while participating in workshops and completing assignments that will provide tools to increase the success of their business. At the end of the 8 weeks, companies will complete a business evaluation and submit their financial statements for review by a non-local panel. Financial statements and business evaluations will be due December 17th. Students will deliver their initial business presentations for Round 2 January 7th. Top 3 Finalists will be announced and receive information regarding Round 3 January 10th.

**Round 3:** The top 3 companies give a “Shark Tank” style business pitch to a panel of judges made up of business leaders in front of friends, family, members of the business community, and their peers January 21st. This presentation will include all the components of their initial business presentation with the addition of a commercial and other enhancements.

**AWARDS:**

1st Place - $5,000 Scholarship

2nd Place - $3,000 Scholarship

3rd Place - $1,000 Scholarship

 *1st Place Advisor - $500*

*2nd Place Advisor - $300*

*3rd Place Advisor - $100*

**RULES**

* Companies must be 2-3 person teams
* Companies must have an advisor from the Jones County School System and will be provided a business mentor in Round 2.
* The competition is open to 9th – 12th grade students.
* Companies must pay back their $100 loan to be considered for Round 3.

 **DISCLAIMER:**

The opinions and decisions made by the panels of judges at each round of the competition are final. The opinions of the judges are independent of JCHS-CCA, JCSS, Jones County Development Authority Gray/JC Chamber of Commerce, and the sponsors of JC FLEX.

**TIMELINE:**

**September 7th – 29th –** Advertisement for JC FLEX Contest to students

**September 9th -** Student Team/School System Mentor Meeting 4:30 p.m. JCHS Cafeteria

**September 30th** – Deadline for applications

**October 20th –** Top 10 announced and awarded seed money with Round 2 Information Packet

**December 17th –** Financials/Information, any updates to Business Plan Due for Top 10

**January 5th -** Final business plan, social media links, websites, etc. As well as any visual aids such as ppt, etc. due for creating copies for judging panel and to ensure all sites are accessible for Round 2

**January 7th –** Round 2 Contest with Panel

**January 10th** - Announce Top 3 Finalists and Provide Round 3 Information Packet

**January 18th -** First Practice/Coaching Session for JC FLEX Top 3 Finalists

**January 20th -** Final Practice/Coaching Session for JC FLEX Top 3 Finalists

**January 21st –** JC FLEX Contest Finals