

Findings from the 2001-02 Study of NFTE
Project IF/Harvard Graduate School of Education
Research Fact Sheet

How Was the Study Conducted?

- A research team from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, led by Prof. Michael Nakkula, Ed.D., carried out the first wave of the New England study, following a pilot study in 2000-2001.
- The team collected data from two Boston public high schools during the 2001-2002 academic year, from students in a required program, “School to Career.”
- The study compared students who chose the “Business” or “Entrepreneurship” pathway to students in the health and education pathways.
- All “business” or “entrepreneurship” students were taught the NFTE curriculum.
- Total sample size was 312 students—158 NFTE and 154 comparison (health and education) students

What Effect Did NFTE Have on the Students?

Findings need to be replicated with a larger group over a larger geography to reach definitive conclusions, but some trends are indicated, as follows:

- Interest in attending college
 - At the beginning of the course, NFTE students expressed less interest in college and fewer hopes and worries related to college, than the comparison group.
 - At the end of the course, NFTE students’ interest in college had increased 32%, while the comparison group’s interest had decreased 17%.
- Occupational aspirations
 - Before the course, NFTE students had job aspirations requiring less education than those of the comparison group.
 - After the course, the NFTE group’s aspirations were 44% greater, while the comparison group’s aspirations were only 10% greater.
- Change in Independent Reading
 - NFTE participation was associated with improved scores in independent reading, as measured by the Hemingway Measure of Adolescent Connectedness.
 - NFTE students’ scores increased 4% while comparison students declined by 4%.
- “Latino Effect”
 - Relative to the White and African-American students in the NFTE sample, Latino students improved more in independent reading scores and on school connectedness.
 - Latino students in the NFTE sample improved more in these areas than Latino students in the comparison group. They also had better grades and were less tardy than Latino students in the comparison group.

Next Phases of the Study

- Follow-up of the students from Phase 1
- New analyses of another group of students from Phase 2
- Design for data collection throughout the NFTE organization