

Second Mile Education drives 2,500+ certifications and boosts graduation by 15% with Coursera



Industry
Higher Education



Location
Miami-Dade County,
Florida, United States



Size
2,500 students



Overview

Second Mile Education supports nonprofit charter high schools in southeastern states by closing opportunity gaps for at-risk and underserved students. Their schools also offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, connecting students to high-demand professional pathways. In Miami-Dade County, Florida, Second Mile integrated Coursera into its broader instructional model at North Gardens High School, expanding access to industry-recognized certifications. This approach helped deliver flexible, career-relevant coursework aligned to state standards and workforce needs. As a result, students re-engaged, recovered credits faster, improved graduation outcomes, and strengthened pathways to postsecondary education and employment.

The Challenge

North Gardens High School serves students who've historically struggled in traditional environments. This includes many from underserved communities and those with diverse learning needs. Some students also balance work, caregiving, and other responsibilities. They often require flexible scheduling and pacing as well as instruction tied to tangible postsecondary pathways. Also, many lacked access to industry-recognized credentials that signal readiness to employers and colleges.

Outcomes

2,500+

industry-recognized certifications earned in four months

15%

increase in credit recovery and graduation rates

2,500

students given pathways to credit recovery, college, and careers

To meet student needs, Second Mile sought to strengthen their dropout prevention and recovery model by expanding access to academically rigorous, career-connected coursework, offering flexibility and personalization.

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Coursera hasn't merely provided certifications—it has delivered practical pathways toward meaningful careers, inspired innovation, and fostered collaborative educational environments benefiting both individual students and our wider community.



Neil Jones
Regional CTE Coordinator

The Solution

Second Mile transformed education by integrating Coursera certifications from respected partners—such as IBM, Google, Wharton, and IE Business School—directly into high school coursework. Students earned valuable professional credentials while fulfilling graduation requirements.

Key implementation strategies:

- **Flexible, self-paced learning** enabled students to pursue certifications beyond school hours, facilitating credit recovery and accelerating graduation.
- **Rigorous alignment** with Florida's Career and Technical Education standards ensured all courses exceeded requirements.

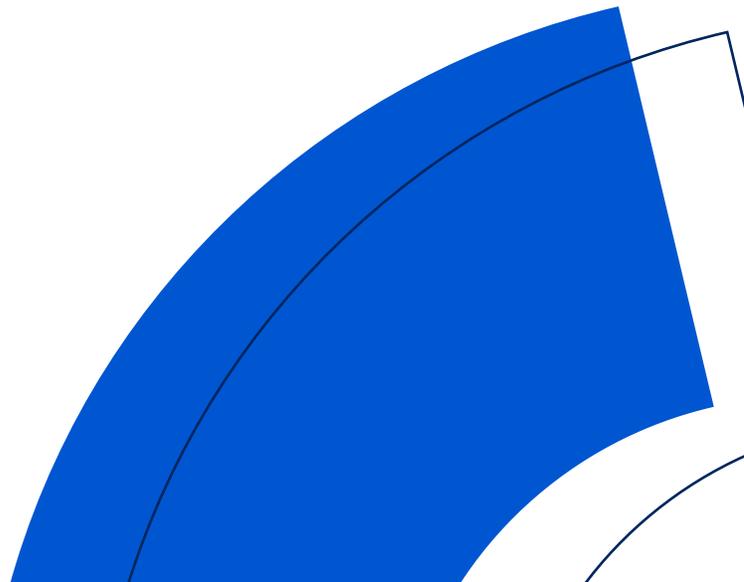
- **Strategic scaling** through state grants expanded the program from one pilot to five schools in six months.
- **Comprehensive support** provided teachers with professional development while business partnerships ensured workforce readiness.

This scalable model particularly empowered students with personalized learning paths that opened new opportunities.

The Results

In less than four months, Second Mile's innovative approach delivered exceptional outcomes across Miami-Dade County, expanding from the successful North Gardens High School pilot to additional schools.

Students who once faced barriers to graduation quickly engaged with the new learning options, while teachers, administrators, and partners noted dramatic shifts in academic confidence. One Grade 10 student completed all three flagship programs—AI, E-commerce, and Entrepreneurship—positioning herself to graduate two years early. She's become a role model for peers across the district.





The response from students at North Gardens High School was extremely positive. They eagerly pursued certifications that offered clear, real-world benefits, which noticeably improved student engagement and graduation rates.



Neil Jones
Regional CTE Coordinator

The program's measurable impact:

- **2,500+** globally recognized professional certificates in highly valued fields
- **15% increase** in credit recovery and graduation rates among participating students
- **Rapid adoption** across five schools, reaching hundreds of students
- **Surging demand** for Coursera licenses, reflecting strong student buy-in
- **Strengthened partnerships** with local businesses created sustainable workforce pipelines
- **Cultural shift** as schools embraced flexible, innovative approaches to serve diverse learners

Looking ahead, Second Mile plans statewide expansion to more schools, fundamentally reshaping how Florida's at-risk students access career-ready education.

Impact Snapshot

Surging demand

among students exceeded initial license projections

Strengthened

school, educator, and local business partnerships

Increased student confidence

and engagement in college and career pathways

Cost-effective expansion

through strategic use of state funding



Bring real-world credentials to every student

Unlock graduation gains, confidence, and workforce readiness across your schools.

[Explore Coursera for Campus](#)