

Junior Achievement of New Jersey

*Innovative programming to prepare
NJ youth for future success*

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empowerthefuture

What is JA?

- The world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.
- We create innovative business-education partnerships that engage corporate and community volunteers to serve as role models, allowing students to see how what is learned in the classroom can apply in the real world.
- In the 2014-15 school year, 57,502 students from 254 schools and organizations in New Jersey were inspired by nearly 4,000 volunteer role models and over 3,000 educators.



JA's Programs...



- Correlate to New Jersey Standard 9 for 21st Century Life and Careers and the Career Ready Practices.
- Foster students' development of critical thinking skills and ability to solve real-world problems through experiential learning.
- Are provided to schools and school districts at no cost.



New Jersey's Skills Gap

NJBIA surveyed regular members and found:

- 74% said entry level employees had fair or poor time-management
- 73% had fair or poor written communications skills
- 70% had fair or poor critical thinking skills
- 69% had fair or poor self-motivation and initiative

NJBIA surveyed manufacturing members and found:

- 75% said the “skills deficit” made it difficult to maintain production levels
- 51 % said the shortage of skilled workers led to slower delivery of products

Employability Skills

- Employability Skills, often called soft or career ready skills, refer to a cluster of personal behaviors, habits and attitudes that are demonstrated by a “good” employee.
- While NJ already boasts a highly educated workforce, job seekers and students must possess and build on these skills for lasting and meaningful employment.
- Employability skills are critical to school success, career readiness, entry level opportunities and career acceleration- ultimately enabling the state’s economy and its residents to prosper.



Employability Skills Aligned with CRP's

Achievement Skills

- leadership & management skills (CRP 4, 9,10)
- problem solving (CRP 2,8)
- dedication(CRP 1)
- integrity (CRP 9)
- organizational skills (CRP 2,7,11)
- advanced communication skills (CRP 4)

Foundational Skills

- customer service(CRP 1,4,8,12)
- supervisory skills (CRP 1,4,9)
- communication (CRP 4) ● time management (CRP 1,11)
- multi-tasking (CRP 6,11) ● people skills (CRP 1,4,9,12)
- personal responsibility (CRP 1,3)
- dependability (CRP 1) ● flexibility (CRP 1,2,5)
- personal appearance/hygiene (CRP 1,3)
- workplace safety (CRP 5)

JA Career Success® Workshop

- A one-day workshop (with extended learning opportunities for the classroom) that brings high school students from various schools together with mentors from various careers and industries, equipping them with the knowledge required to get and keep a job in today's market.
- Students identify and develop the crucial workplace skills employers seek, including the Four C's: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking.



- They explore STEM and other high-growth industries, learn job hunting strategies, and participate in a mock interview.
- The program inspires students by exposing them to a college campus or corporate facility.

JA Career Success® Workshop

Session Descriptions

Get Hired: Critical Thinking and Creativity. Students apply critical-thinking skills to solve problems in real-life work scenarios.

Get Hired: Communication and Conflict Management Skills. Students apply communication skills to resolve conflicts in work-based scenarios through role playing and conflict management.

Get Hired: Collaboration and Creativity. Students practice collaboration and creativity, by using a team-building model referred to as the GRPI model (goals, roles & responsibilities, processes and interpersonal skills).

Get Hired: Strong Soft Skills. Students review in-demand soft skills and rate their own abilities, before presenting them through personal stories in a job-interview workshop.

Know Your Work Priorities. Students learn that in the current workforce, people change jobs or careers several times over a lifetime, making it important to be prepared and adaptable.

Know Who's Hiring. In groups, students analyze factors to consider when researching careers: skills earned through training and education; interests in various career clusters; and specific high-growth jobs and the requirements needed to earn them.

Know Your Personal Brand. Students work in teams to rate the personal brand of candidates applying for a job by comparing cover letters, resumes, and digital profiles of the candidates.

JA Career Success® Workshop



“My class enjoyed their experience because it allowed them to practically collaborate with other students from the region with which they would not normally be able to interact.”

–CTE Educator, Manville HS

Career Ready Practices 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 12

JA Finance Park®



- The JA Finance Park program provides innovative ways to help students meet New Jersey's graduation requirements for financial literacy (NJCCCS 9.1) while focusing on important elements of financial literacy, money management, and career exploration.
- Following teacher-led classroom sessions, students participate in a visit to the JA Finance Park facility for the opportunity to apply what they have learned in a realistic setting. Each student will receive a fictional life situation, calculate a net monthly income, explore budget options, and create a balanced monthly budget.

JA Finance Park®



- The on-site experiential learning visit allows students to put theory into practice in an interactive, hands-on environment. JA Finance Park is an intensive, high-energy, high-tech immersion learning experience.
- Junior Achievement provides complete curriculum materials and educator training, including a teacher guide, student workbooks, and support materials for the on-site visit.
- Provides up to 45 instructional contact hours, and includes a project-based learning option for educators.



Career Ready Practices 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12

JA BizTown®

- Beginning in the classroom, JA BizTown teaches 5th and 6th grade students about business and money management, citizenship, and how an economy works.
- The program culminates with a day-long field trip to the simulated JA BizTown mini-city where students role play in jobs, managing their businesses and serving as citizens and consumers.



JA BizTown®

In the classroom, students:

- Learn about the economy, taxes, and philanthropy.
- Understand how to write a check, make a deposit, and manage their money effectively.
- Acquire teamwork, leadership, and work skills.
- Apply for and obtain a job.
- Discover how to start, finance, and manage a business.



During the field trip, students:

- Play the role of Mayor, CEO, CFO, or other various jobs.
- Manage staff, financial resources, and customers.
- Account for business expenses and revenue.
- Learn how to be part of a successful economy.
- Understand their role as citizens in a community.



Career Ready Practices 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12

JA High School Heroes

JA's High School Heroes Initiative is an innovative service-learning project that helps high school students build valuable employability skills like leadership, public speaking, critical thinking, and time management.

- High School students learn the value of team work as they serve as role models to their younger peers, presenting and guiding them through activities that inspire them to dream big and reach their full potential.
- In a recent JA High School Hero survey, 90% agreed or strongly agreed that the experience helped them improve their public speaking skills- preparing them for life after high school.



JA High School Heroes

“The emotional growth that I have experienced from this program has helped me prepare for my future in the workforce...it’s made a positive impact on my life and provided me with career readiness skills that I will continue to use.”
Tatiana, JA High School Hero



Career Ready Practices 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12

JA High School Heroes Full Circle Mentoring



High School Heroes have the opportunity to connect with business leaders and mentors, participate in additional JA activities and events, and are eligible for JA's High School Heroes Annual Scholarship.

Thank you!

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