

JA High School Impact Summary 2011

Overall

- Junior Achievement (JA) is committed to ongoing, rigorous evaluation and quality assurance of all JA programs. In the past 5 years, over 96% of JA's programs have undergone comprehensive, nationwide evaluations to assess program effectiveness and impact.
- Results of JA program evaluations over the past 15 years have consistently demonstrated that JA elementary, middle, and high school programs prepare students to develop successful financial management habits, empower them to explore the potential of becoming an entrepreneur, and provide them with the skills necessary to succeed in a global workforce.
- In the past five years, JA Worldwide's investment in student outcomes research has exceeded \$4.1 million. Collectively, as evidenced by more than 50 evaluation studies, Junior Achievement programs have a significant impact on students' knowledge, skill development, and attitudes.
- Ninety-six percent of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend JA to a colleague or friend.¹

Economic Development

- An educated consumer better uses their resources and has increased economic security, better jobs, and are more likely to be homeowners. The ultimate impact is more thriving communities with a well-educated labor force.²
- On average, as demonstrated by multiple studies, JA students score significantly higher, at least 10 percent, than their peers on assessments that measure financial literacy.
- Students who participate in JA programs develop financial skills necessary for future success. JA students most frequently report they acquire management skills such as how to create a budget and how to set personal financial goals.
- Almost eight out of ten teachers (76%) agree or strongly agree that JA's high school programs improve students' ability to analyze financial information.

Education Development

- Teachers (95%) and volunteers (92%) report that students who participate in JA have a better understanding of how the real world operates.
- JA is relevant as it bridges the gap of what students are learning in school and how it can be applied in the real world.
 - More than eight out of 10 teachers and volunteers (84%) agree or strongly agree that JA connected what students were learning in the classroom with the real world.³
 - Almost nine out of 10 volunteers and teachers (87%) agree or strongly agree that participation in JA's high school programs introduce students to new careers.⁴

¹ Ongoing "Program Content & Instruction Survey" available at <http://www.ja.org/programs/programs.shtml>

² OECD - <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/60/37723380.pdf>

³ Ongoing "Program Content & Instruction Survey" available at <http://www.ja.org/programs/programs.shtml>

- JA reinforces the value of an education.
 - More than eight out of ten teachers and volunteers (82%) agree or strongly agree that Junior Achievement programs help students' realize the importance of staying in school.⁵
 - In recent high school program evaluations, an average of eight out of 10 students report that Junior Achievement programs helped reinforce the importance of staying in school.⁶
 - Sixty-seven percent of JA alumni report that JA made them realize the importance of staying in school.⁷
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Youth Development

- JA prepares students for the future.
 - More than eight out of 10 (82%) teachers and volunteers agree or strongly agree that JA high school programs better prepare students for the world of work.⁸
 - In recent high school program evaluations, more than eight out of 10 students report that the Junior Achievement program better prepared them for the future.⁹
 - In longitudinal studies, JA students were significantly more likely than their peers to believe that they would graduate from high school, pursue post-secondary education, and graduate from college.¹⁰
- Students who participate in JA programs develop skills necessary for future success
 - The majority of teachers and volunteers report that JA's high school programs have a positive impact on students' work-readiness skills:
 - Seven out of 10 agree or strongly agree that participation in JA improves students' decision-making skills.
 - More than seven out of 10 (72%) agree or strongly agree that participation in JA improves students' critical-thinking skills.
 - Almost eight out of 10 (78%) agree or strongly agree that participation in JA improves students' interpersonal communication skills.

Path to Program Specific Evaluations

To access evaluation findings for specific JA high school programs, please go to the education homepage of the portal: <http://portal.jahub.org/servlet/portal/serve/3589>; click on the right-hand side under Elementary, Middle or High School Program information. Then select the program name/Evaluation Folder/ Program Evaluation Reports/ click on the report to view.

⁴ Ongoing "Program Content & Instruction Survey" available at <http://www.ja.org/programs/programs.shtml>

⁵ Ongoing "Program Content & Instruction Survey" available at <http://www.ja.org/programs/programs.shtml>

⁶ Synthesis of independent evaluation findings from 2000-2009

⁷ "Junior Achievement Creates Alumni Success" available at www.ja.org

⁸ Ongoing "Program Content & Instruction Survey" available at <http://www.ja.org/programs/programs.shtml>

⁹ Synthesis of independent evaluation findings from 2000-2009

¹⁰ 2001-2003 Longitudinal findings available at http://www.ja.org/files/long_summary.pdf