

Junior Achievement Fact Sheet

Purpose Statement

Junior Achievement educates and inspires young people to value free enterprise, business and economics to improve the quality of their lives and help prepare them for success in tomorrow's workplace.

Overview

Junior Achievement programs teach students about business and economics to prepare young people for workplace opportunities. Junior Achievement builds partnerships between the business and education communities to provide the curriculum and volunteers who serve as role models to the students.

More than 35,000 students actively participated in Junior Achievement programs in 198 schools throughout Cuyahoga, Lake & Geauga counties during the 2002-2003 school year. There is a great opportunity to reach even more young people; demand exceeds supply.

Junior Achievement provides 17 separate, sequential programs for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. In the elementary grades, students learn about needs vs. wants, different types of jobs, and money & banking. Middle grades students study budgeting, job interviewing, saving & investing. In high school, students try their hand at entrepreneurship, writing business plans and financial management.

Junior Achievement programs are funded through contributions from businesses, individuals, foundations and special event fund-raisers. We are not a United Way agency.

Facts

- JA of Greater Cleveland will provide programs to more than 38,000 students in approximately 200 schools in Cuyahoga, Lake & Geauga counties during the 2003-2004 school year.
- The 2003-2004 budget is approximately \$860,000.
- More than 3,000 local businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals provide funding through annual campaigns, special projects and fundraising events.
- Over 4,000 local business people, community members and schoolteachers are involved annually as classroom participants and/or fundraising volunteers.
- 49% of all classes were in the Cleveland Municipal Schools in the 2002-2003 school year.
- The Greater Cleveland office has been in operation since 1941.

Benefits

- Students gain a better understanding of the business world and receive realistic exposure to various career opportunities.
- Schools have an opportunity to form meaningful partnerships with area businesses.
- Teachers learn about and gain an increased appreciation of business.
- Volunteers have an opportunity to "give something back" to the community.
- Volunteers share personal experiences, success stories and information about their employer.
- Sponsoring companies and organizations have an opportunity to invest in the future workforce of Cleveland.

Feedback from Participants

Consultants

- Junior Achievement helps build students' self-esteem and your own. I love making a difference.
- The materials were excellent and very easy to understand and use.
- Junior Achievement makes students aware of the importance of saving money and a good education.
- Junior Achievement introduces children to the economic world in a way they can understand. It is an interesting and fun program.
- JA helps me stay informed and in touch with a younger generation. I don't want to be a person who refers to my generation as the 'good old days'."
- Knowing that you're having a positive influence on the children you're teaching is a great feeling.

Students

- I learned how a community works and where money comes from.
- Most of what we learned in Junior Achievement had to do with business and budgeting, but it showed me that if I put my mind to it, I can be what I've always wanted to be.
- I am now ready for the real world after learning so much about money, getting a job and making a budget.
- The thing that was most useful was how to balance a checkbook because I plan to use a checkbook when I get older.
- I liked JA because it was fun.

Teachers

- I have had the opportunity of working with consultants from manufacturing, banking and entrepreneurs and they each had a different way of linking the "real business world" with the schools.
- JA is a great program and I always look forward to participating in it. Thanks for letting me be a part of your program for 21 years!
- The information and concepts taught by Junior Achievement are necessary for students' everyday lives. JA helps them better understand our world.
- JA teaches students to respond to questions that require thinking beyond the printed word. My volunteer provides a different perspective on learning for my students.
- My volunteer invited his co-worker, a Human Resources person, to role play mock interviews. She was professional with my students and gave them 'real world' experiences and knowledge.
- I love having Junior Achievement in my classroom.