



JA Economics for Success[®]

Program Overview

JA Economics for Success explores personal finance and students' education and career options based on their skills, interests, and values, while demonstrating the economic benefits of staying in school.

Following participation in the program, students will be able to:

- Explore their skills, interests, and values, and the world of work to make informed education, career, and life decisions.
- Develop their knowledge of personal finance to apply strong financial-management skills regardless of income.

Session Overviews and Objectives

<p>Session One Mirror, Mirror</p> <p>Students make choices to understand the concept of self-knowledge—their skills, interests, and values—and the structure of the world of work as they consider education, career, and other life choices.</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain self-knowledge, including personal skills, interests, and values. • Identify careers of interest and how they are classified within the world of work.
<p>Session Two Choose Your Success</p> <p>Students play the Choose Your Success game, in which the connection between personal finance, education, and career options is demonstrated.</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the link between personal finance, education, and career options. • Apply decision-making to education and career decisions.
<p>Session Three Keeping Your Balance</p> <p>Students receive Occupation Cards and observe how different jobs provide different monthly salaries. Based on these monthly salaries, students evaluate the opportunity cost of their decisions to create a budget. Then they compare their spending decisions to the suggested amounts on the cards.</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that a balanced budget is important for workers of all income levels. • Differentiate between gross and net income. • Name ways to balance a budget.
<p>Session Four Savvy Shopper</p> <p>Students examine how consumers pay for goods and services. They discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using cash and credit and then play a game that reinforces their understanding of the cost of credit.</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the opportunity costs associated with using cash and credit. • Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using credit. • Identify appropriate situations to use cash and credit.

Session Overviews and Objectives

Session Five Keeping Score Students examine how a credit score is determined and learn about the positive and negative consequences of a credit report.	Objectives Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the favorable or unfavorable outcomes of a personal credit score.• Explain actions that cause a credit score to go up or down.
Session Six What's the Risk? Students demonstrate that life involves risk and that insurance helps reduce the financial consequences of loss or injury.	Objectives Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify financial risks.• Explain how insurance provides a method to minimize risk.• Identify the opportunity cost of having insurance.

Program Basics

- Includes a series of six sessions recommended for students in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade.
- Average time for each session is 45 minutes.
- Materials are packaged in a self-contained kit that includes detailed plans for the volunteer and materials for 32 students.
- Provides practical information about personal finance and the importance of identifying education and career goals based on a student's skills, interests, and values.
- Session-specific, student-friendly materials included to increase student interaction and emphasize JA's experiential approach to learning.
- Correlates well to state social studies, English, and math standards, as well as the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and mathematics.

Program Concepts and Skills

JA Economics for Success enhances students' learning of the following concepts and skills:

Concepts—Credit, Debt, Gross income, Interest, Insurance, Needs and wants, Net income, Opportunity cost, Risk, Self-knowledge, World of work

Skills—Critical thinking, Decision-making, Following directions, Interpreting data, Math calculations, Oral and written communication, Problem-solving, Role-playing, Self-assessment, Working in groups