

# JA Economics for Success®

## Program Overview

*JA Economics for Success* provides practical information about personal finance and the importance of identifying education and career goals based on a student's skills, interests, and values.

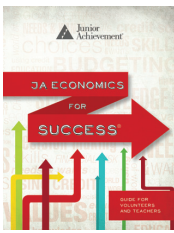
Following participation in the program, students will be able to:

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

## Session Overviews and Objectives

<p><b>Session One</b> <b>Mirror, Mirror</b> Students make choices to better understand the concept of self-knowledge—the awareness of their skills, interests, and values—as they consider education, careers, and other life choices.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use personal reflection to explain self-knowledge.</li> <li>• Apply their skills, interests, and values to help determine a potential career path.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session Two</b> <b>Be a Success</b> Students learn how to set goals for their financial future. They play the Be a Success Game to see the connection between personal finance, education, and careers.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the connection between goal-setting, personal finance, education, and career choices.</li> <li>• Apply decision making to education and career choices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session Three</b> <b>Keeping Your Balance</b> Students receive Occupation Cards and observe how different jobs provide different monthly salaries. Based on those monthly salaries, students evaluate the opportunity cost when making budget decisions.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that a balanced budget is important for all workers.</li> <li>• Define the term income and differentiate between gross and net income.</li> <li>• Name ways to balance a budget.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session Four</b> <b>Savvy Shopper</b> Students examine how consumers pay for goods and services. They discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using debit and credit cards.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the differences between debit and credit cards.</li> <li>• Explain the advantages and disadvantages of both cards.</li> <li>• Recognize the importance of taking personal responsibility for financial decisions.</li> </ul>

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## Session Overviews and Objectives

<p><b>Session Five</b> <b>Keeping Score</b> Students examine how a credit score is determined and learn about the consequences of a positive and negative credit report.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the favorable or unfavorable consequences of a high or low personal credit score.</li><li>• Explain actions that cause a credit score to go up or down.</li></ul>
<p><b>Session Six</b> <b>What's the Risk?</b> Students learn that life involves risk and that insurance and personal responsibility help to reduce the financial consequences of loss or injury.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the cost and consequence of risk.</li><li>• Explain how insurance provides a method to minimize financial risk.</li><li>• Identify the opportunity cost of having insurance.</li><li>• Assess how personal responsibility plays a part in minimizing risk.</li></ul>

## Program Basics

- Includes a series of six sessions recommended for students in middle school.
- 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 the following key topics: choices and self-knowledge, education and career options, budgeting, using credit, credit score, and financial risk.
- 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 to 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**—Budget, Credit, Credit card, Credit score, Co-pay insurance, Debit card, Decision making, Deductible, Goal setting, Gross income, Higher education, Interest, Interests, Needs and wants, Net income, Opportunity cost, Policy, Premium, Risk, Self-knowledge, Skills, Values, World of work

**Skills**—Analyzing information, Critical thinking, Inquiry and critical thinking skills, Interpreting data, Math calculations, Oral and written communication, Problem solving, Reading for understanding, Self-assessment, Working in groups and pairs presentation, Oral and written communication, Organizing information, Reading for understanding