

# JA Elementary Program Impact Summary

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## Evaluation Results

March 2009 – April 2010

### Overview

- In March 2009, JA Worldwide launched an online survey, *The Program Content and Instruction Survey*, to gather feedback regarding the effectiveness of instructional materials developed by Junior Achievement. The survey link was added to the [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org) website under the Programs section heading, “Delivered a JA program? Let us know what you think by taking our brief survey.” The survey also was advertised through an internal e-newsletter sent to JA’s 128 offices in the United States.

### Sample

- A total of 991 teachers and volunteers who have participated in a JA elementary school program completed the survey.

### Student Impact – Teacher Perspective

- Sample – 311 teachers from 35 different states completed the online post-survey.
- The majority of teachers (32%) were new to JA. Twenty-five percent of teachers reported having JA in the classroom a total of five or more times.
- More than nine out of 10 teachers (94%) agreed or strongly agreed that JA’s elementary school programs aligned well with the school curriculum.
- More than nine out of 10 teachers (93%) rated JA’s elementary school programs as “good” or “excellent.”
- The majority of teachers reported that JA’s elementary school programs had a positive impact on students’ work-readiness skills:
  - More than seven out of 10 teachers (75%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ teamwork skills.
  - Almost nine out of 10 teachers (85%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ decision-making skills.
  - Almost nine out of 10 teachers (86%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ critical-thinking skills.
  - Eight out of 10 teachers (80%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ interpersonal communication skills.
  - More than seven out of 10 teachers (74%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ ability to analyze financial information.
- Almost eight out of 10 teachers (79%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA helped prepare students for the world of work.
- More than eight out of 10 teachers (84%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA introduced students to new careers.
- More than nine out of 10 teachers (95%) agreed or strongly agreed that the JA elementary school program connected what is learned in the classroom to real life.

- Eight out of 10 teachers (80%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA helped students realize the importance of staying in school.
- Ninety-six percent of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend JA to a colleague or friend.

*The lessons matched our learning targets and state standards. The curriculum that was presented had presentations with discussions that were followed by “hands on” activities. The students were engaged and really enjoyed someone from the community coming in to teach them. – Teacher*

### Student Impact – Volunteer Perspective



- Sample – 680 volunteers from 28 different states completed the online post-survey.
- Almost half (47%) of volunteers were participating in JA for the first time.
- More than nine out of 10 volunteers (92%) rated JA’s elementary school programs as “good” or “excellent.”
- The majority of volunteers reported that JA’s elementary school programs had a positive impact on student participants:
  - Almost eight out of 10 volunteers (76%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ decision-making skills.
  - Almost eight out of 10 volunteers (79%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ critical-thinking skills.
  - More than seven out of 10 volunteers (71%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA improved students’ interpersonal communication skills.
- More than seven out of 10 volunteers (74%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA helped prepare students for the world of work.
- Nearly eight out of 10 volunteers (77%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA introduced students to new careers.
- Nine out of 10 volunteers (90%) agreed or strongly agreed that the JA elementary school program connected what is learned in the classroom to real life.
- More than seven out 10 volunteers (77%) agreed or strongly agreed that participation in JA helped students realize the importance of staying in school.
- Almost 100% of volunteers (96%) agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend JA to a colleague or friend.



*The highlight of this program for me is when the students would get excited to learn the material. Their eyes would light up when I walked into the room because they knew that they were going to participate in a JA lesson that day.*  
– Volunteer

If you want more information regarding the impact of a specific program, please contact Shannon Dick at [sdick@ja.org](mailto:sdick@ja.org).

