



## Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Indiana

### Program Description

**Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)** is a school-to-career program implemented in 700 middle school, high schools, alternative schools and community colleges across the country and United Kingdom. Its mission is to keep young people on track to graduate from school and to provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities or to enrollment in a post-secondary institution that leads to a rewarding career.

**JAG Indiana** has implemented this multi-year program targeting high school juniors and seniors who can benefit from educational and career development experiences. The service combines intensive one-on-one and group educational experiences with field trips, presentations and volunteer activities.

JAG Indiana is administered in Indianapolis by Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana Inc., and is located at the following schools: Indianapolis Metropolitan High School, Arlington Community High School, Arsenal Technical High School, George Washington Community High School and Ben Davis High School.

JAG's number one goal is for students to complete their diploma or GED requirements. Students receive basic skill assessment and remediation where needed.

JAG's second goal is for students to obtain employability skills. The program prepares students to be ready to work and avoid unemployment. These students do not possess the skills needed for employment and lack opportunities for gaining those skills. JAG teaches these skills and provides opportunities for students to practice the skills needed to enter the job market.

JAG's third goal is for graduates to enter a post-secondary institution and remain employed full time after graduation.

### JAG Offers:

- **Classroom instruction.** A trained "JAG specialist" provides individual and group instruction to 35-45 young people carefully selected for the program by a school advisory committee comprised of faculty, administrators and counselors.
- **Employability Skills Training.** The JAG curriculum is designed to equip students with no less than 37 competencies that will prepare them to secure a quality job and/or pursue a post-secondary education upon graduation from high school.
- **Adult Mentoring.** JAG specialists provide individual attention to reduce the number of barriers preventing students from receiving a high school diploma, securing employment or pursuing a post-secondary education and/or training that leads to a career.

# Fact Sheet

- **Guidance and Counseling.** JAG specialists provide informal guidance to students on career and life decisions and based on the individual needs of students, connect them to professional counseling services to address more serious barriers (i.e. mental health issues and drug abuse).
- **Summer Employment Training.** JAG services include employment placement for students over the summer months to support year-long learning and provide valuable work experience prior to graduation from high school.
- **Leadership Development.** In-school students participate in the highly motivational student-led JAG Career Association and develop leadership and teaming skills. Out-of-school young adults participate in a youth-led organization called the Professional Association.
- **Job and Post-secondary Educational Placement Services.** The JAG community outreach coordinator is a liaison between the school and potential employers/partners and develops internships and job opportunities (paid and unpaid work experiences) for students as well as identifies potential mentors. Likewise, JAG college transition counselors assist students in exploring post-secondary educational opportunities and navigating the financial aid and application processes.
- **Linkages to School and Community-Based Services.** JAG serves as a school-based “one-stop center” to ensure that students receive academic and social services from in-school and community-based sources.
- **12-Month Follow-up Services.** JAG provides 12 months of post-graduation follow-up services and support on-the-job and/or in pursuit of a postsecondary education.

**JAG-Indiana partners with the community to provide students with the following:**

- Employment opportunities
- Job Shadowing
- Apprenticeships
- Internships – both paid and unpaid
- Volunteer opportunities
- Scholarships
- Speakers for in-school classes
- Sponsors for State and National competitive events and conferences

A survey by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found that 98% of employers involved with the JAG model hired JAG graduates; 86% said that JAG graduates exceeded, or greatly exceeded their expectations.

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