

Jobs for America's Graduates

1a. Organization name

Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. (JAG)

1b. Summarize your organization's mission and its connection to Louisiana's plan for struggling schools

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a state-based, national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing educational dropouts among young people who possess a multitude of barriers to success upon acceptance into a JAG Model Program. Since 1980, JAG has delivered consistent, compelling results – helping over one million middle school, high school and out-of-school students to stay in school through graduation (or completion of a high school equivalency diploma), pursue a postsecondary education and /or secure quality entry-level employment that leads to career advancement opportunities.

JAG success is due to the highly professional and well-trained JAG Specialists who work tirelessly, creatively and persistently in the schools to help identify those young people with significant barriers to academic, personal and/or career success; deliver engaging and effective outcomes-based JAG Model services; keep JAG students in school through graduation; deliver the 12-month post-graduation job and college follow-up period; and, achieve extraordinary success! JAG is a life-changing experience for those fortunate to be served in a program that is customized to fit the needs of young people with barriers to success and who need, want and can benefit from a JAG Model program.

Today JAG is in 33 states and 1,162 classrooms serving 57,236 students of extraordinary promise when served by dedicated, committed and well-trained JAG Specialists. What sets the JAG program apart from other education programs is the relationship it builds between students and their Specialists.

The JAG Model is cost-effective with an average cost of less than \$1,400 per participant on average that can be recovered in taxes paid alone in only 14 months of full-time employment. The JAG Model Components consist of classroom instruction, competency-based employability curriculums, adult mentoring, advisement and support, professional development, summer employment training, student-led leadership development, job and postsecondary education placement services, 12-month follow-up services, accountability system.

JAG is committed to helping resolve our country's dropout and transition problems by expanding state organizations and local programs that help young people greatest at risk overcome barriers to graduation from high school and become college and career ready! JAG is committed to equipping JAG Specialists with proven programs and unique services for middle school, high school and out-of-school youth to stay in school through graduation from high school, pursue a collegiate education and/or enter and advance in their chosen career field!

JAG is committed to developing future leaders for families, employers, communities, states and the nation! JAG believes that JAG students and graduates are capable of extraordinary accomplishments once they realize the future relevance of what they are learning and will exceed expectations when challenged and stimulated. JAG graduates can and will change the world! JAG is needed more than ever!

Jobs for America's Graduates–Louisiana established a charter in 1995. In 2014-2015, 70 programs were funded serving 3,874 students. The Class of 2015 completed Follow-up for an additional 598 students.

JAG-LA Performance Outcomes for the Class of 2015:

1). GRADUATION RATE:

The goal is for 90 percent of the program participants to complete requirements for a high school diploma or high school equivalency.

Louisiana: 94.14%; JAG National: 94%

2). POSITIVE OUTCOMES RATE:

The goal is for 80 percent of the program participants to be employed, enrolled in a post-secondary education institution, or serving in the U.S. military on a full-time basis.

Louisiana: 88.35%; JAG National: 82%

3). JOB PLACEMENT RATE:

The goal is for a minimum of 60 percent of the program participants to be employed in civilian jobs (full-time or part-time) or serving in a branch of the U.S. military.

Louisiana: 76.90%; JAG National: 61%

4). FULL-TIME JOB(S) RATE:

The goal is for 60 percent of those employed to secure full-time jobs in the civilian labor market or in the U.S. military. A full-time job (or a set of jobs) is one that provides 35 or more hours of work per week.

Louisiana: 79.89%; JAG National: 73%

5). FULL-TIME PLACEMENT RATE:

The goal is for 80 percent of the graduates to be employed full-time, enrolled in a postsecondary education on a full-time basis, or to combine work and school to achieve a full-time status.

Louisiana: 92.59%; JAG National: 89%

2 Evidence of Track Record of Student and School Outcomes

- a. In any format, please illustrate your organization’s track record in dramatically improving schools or systems of schools and/or radically increasing outcomes for targeted subgroups of students.

Performance Outcomes – Classes of 1990-2014

	Graduation Goal-90%	Positive Outcomes Goal-80%	Job Placement Goal-60%	Full-time Jobs Goal-60%	Full-time Placement Goal-80%	Unable to Contact Goal ≤5%	Further Education Rate	Average Wage
1990	90%	78%	59%	64%	NA	NA	NA	\$5.12
1991	91%	80%	59%	59%	NA	NA	NA	\$5.24
1992	91%	79%	57%	60%	NA	NA	33%	\$5.30
1993	91%	80%	60%	62%	80%	NA	35%	\$5.38
1994	88%	81%	61%	68%	84%	NA	35%	\$5.70
1995	89%	82%	60%	55%	85%	NA	38%	\$6.02
1996	90%	82%	60%	66%	86%	NA	39%	\$6.22
1997	90%	82%	60%	66%	86%	NA	39%	\$6.48
1998	91%	69%	50%	68%	89%	NA	34%	\$6.53
1999	91%	66%	54%	76%	87%	25%	21%	\$6.90
2000	88%	73%	54%	72%	90%	18%	35%	\$7.28
2001	85%	72%	51%	68%	89%	20%	21%	\$7.44
2002	85%	72%	52%	66%	88%	19%	20%	\$7.54
2003	93%	72%	50%	67%	86%	17%	36%	\$7.08
2004	91%	73%	50%	62%	87%	17%	41%	\$6.70
2005	92%	73%	52%	67%	89%	18%	39%	\$7.00
2006	94%	78%	57%	66%	88%	16%	41%	\$7.40
2007	94%	83%	60%	67%	90%	9%	46%	\$8.05
2008	94%	79%	57%	66%	89%	10%	46%	\$8.10
2009	94%	81%	55%	66%	88%	9%	48%	\$8.09
2010	93%	79%	54%	67%	88%	12%	47%	\$8.07
2011	94%	78%	54%	68%	89%	14%	45%	\$8.11
2012	93%	77%	55%	70%	89%	16%	43%	\$8.22
2013	91%	79%	59%	71%	90%	14%	43%	\$8.48
2014	93%	81%	59%	72%	89%	10%	43%	\$8.59
2015	94%	82%	61%	73%	89%	10%	43%	
26-Year Average	91%	77%	56%	66%	88%	15%	38%	\$7.28

In a study conducted by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in 2012, it was found that JAG students were twice as likely to be employed as compared to their counterparts not in the program, and three times as likely to be employed full-time.

3. Your Organization's Model

- **Classroom Instruction.** A trained “**Career Specialist**” provides individual and group instruction to **35-45 students** in a class delivered for credit during the school day.
- **Employability Skills.** The JAG NATIONAL CURRICULUM equips participants with a minimum of 37 employability competencies and intensive career exploration and training opportunities.
- **Adult Mentoring.** Specialists (JAG teachers) provide 180 contact hours and the individual attention at risk students need to overcome barriers that stand in the way of personal and academic success.
- **Advice and Support.** Specialists provide guidance as students make significant career and life decisions and connect participants to other social and education services in the community.
- **Summer Employment Training.** Job placement is provided and partnerships are developed with summer youth employment programs to maximize year-long learning.
- **Student-Led Leadership Development.** Participants join a highly motivating student-led organization to develop, practice and refine their leadership and teaming skills and serve their communities.
- **Job and Postsecondary Education Placement Services.** Employer marketing and assistance with postsecondary education opportunities is provided by the Specialist to support their students’ postsecondary goals and successful transition to those opportunities following graduation.
- **12-Month Follow-up Services.** JAG provides no less than twelve months of follow-up services and support to participants after graduation or completion of a GED.
- **Accountability System.** A comprehensive, internet-based tracking and reporting system that includes information on the participants served, services delivered and performance outcomes.
- **Cost Effective Approach.** The average cost per participant is \$1,400. Considerably less than other programs with the same goals.

a. How will you differentiate your services to meet the unique needs of schools and districts in Louisiana?

The JAG Model has provided services to students in Louisiana since 1995 with success. In each high school JAG has a program, a JAG Advisory Board is formed with the leadership of the school and key stakeholders to ensure that the specific needs of the students within that community are being met through the engagement of the school and community leadership in partnership with State and local JAG staff.

b. What are the attributes of your ideal partner school or district?

The attributes of partners include providing service to students with fidelity to the JAG Model.

c. Describe your experience working with other third party providers to support coherent school and district improvement.

JAG works with community based organizations and employers as needed to support students to be successful as outlined by the JAG Model Standards. With over 1,000 programs across the country, there are numerous examples of partnerships with organizations such as Boys Club Girls Club, Communities in Schools, United Ways, YouthBuild, Job Corps, and many many more. In addition, Employer Marketing/Engagement is a required component of the JAG Model, which leads to partnerships with over 5,000 employers that hire our young people. There are many examples of higher education partnerships as well, including in Minneapolis where JAG students receive an English Credit towards their Associates Degree through an articulation with Minneapolis Community & Technical College, as just one example.

d. What support from the state, district or school partners would enhance your success in Louisiana?

Previous support from the state of Louisiana has proven successful, including financial support from the state and local districts, classroom space for local JAG classes, field trip approval, etc.