



Jobs for America's Graduates:

Dropout Prevention, Postsecondary Education, Careers and Leadership Development for At-Risk Youth

Program Overview

What - Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a 26-year old non-profit youth development program dedicated to helping at-risk young people graduate from high school and make successful transitions to postsecondary education or meaningful employment. JAG has served over 500,000 youth since its inception and is currently helping 35,000 young people in 700 schools and other locations in 30 states to achieve academic, career and life success.

Why - 2,000 young people drop out each school day. Today, the average graduation rate for all youth in the nation is just 68%. When one-third of our nation's youth leave school without a diploma or direction, we are compromising our future. One of the bottom line numbers that brings the enormity of this problem into focus is the incarceration rate for dropouts: 65% of state prison inmates are high school dropouts. This is just one example of how the vitality of our economy, our workforce, our citizens and our communities is at stake.

JAG Results -

- **92% graduation rate**—completion of a high school diploma or GED.
- **80% positive outcomes rate**— Sustainability: 12 months following graduation, JAG youth are either employed, enrolled in a postsecondary institution or serving in the military.

The JAG Model: Comprehensive, Practical, Proven. Accountable, Cost Effective

- **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 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
- **Advisement and Support.** Specialists provide guidance as students make significant career and life decisions and connect participants to other services in the community as needed.
- **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.** Computerized tracking of participants served, services delivered and performance outcomes.
- **Cost Effective Approach.** The average cost per participant is \$1,600. Considerably less than other programs with the same goals.