

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the students' visit to *JA BizTown* a field trip?

A: No! *JA BizTown* is an experiential educational program that enables students to learn economic concepts in an interactive, hands-on environment. Children should arrive at *JA BizTown* prepared to actively engage in tasks directly related to the in-class curriculum they have been studying for the past 2-4 weeks.

Q: What is the time commitment for *JA BizTown*™?

A: There are 12 lessons before the *JA BizTown* visit (forty-five (45) minutes each). There are also several extension and application activities, which allow a lot of flexibility for the teacher.

Q: What materials are included in the *JA BizTown* curriculum?

A: The Classroom Kit provides nearly everything a teacher needs to teach the unit.

These materials include:

- Curriculum Guide
- Citizen Guides (student workbooks)
- Curriculum Timeline
- Teaching Posters
- Game Cards
- Student Simulation Checkbooks
- BizPrep Business Paperwork
- Communication Templates
- Unit Newsletters
- Online resources

Q: Who can teach the *JA BizTown* curriculum?

A: The interdisciplinary curriculum can be taught by the economics, social studies, math, or language arts teachers, or the teaching team can share responsibilities by dividing lessons. All lessons are written to meet state and common core standards.

Q: Can special needs students participate in *JA BizTown*?

A: Yes! *JA BizTown* is like a “real city”, as there are jobs of every level and interest. Please speak with your JA Contact Person to obtain more information about, and recommendations for special needs students' job placements.

Q: What is the cost of *JA BizTown*?

A: The cost to schools is \$19 per student. The cost to Junior Achievement is \$80 per student to operate *JA BizTown*. Schools are responsible for the per student, while Junior Achievement covers the remaining cost. The per student fee helps cover the cost of teacher and volunteer trainings, curriculum production and distribution, staff visits to schools, unlimited phone and e-mail consultation, student materials, online and technology resources, and all necessary consumables for the on-site visit day. The student fee does not include bus transportation. It is the responsibility of the school to arrange and pay for bus transportation to the *JA BizTown* site on the day of the visit.

Q: How many facilitators/volunteers are needed? Who qualifies, and what is their role?

A: A minimum of 18 facilitators (volunteers) are needed, or 1-2 per business. However, we can accommodate as many as 36 facilitators, if all businesses are operating. Facilitators can be parents, grandparents, principals, school volunteers, teachers' aides, vice principals, etc. The facilitator's role in a business is to provide encouragement, guide students, bring the "real" world into *JA BizTown*, and to look for those "teachable moments" where the concepts taught at school become relevant to the JA BizTown work environment. Facilitators will not be placed in the business where their child is working.

Q: What happens when a student who has participated during the in-class curriculum does not visit *JA BizTown*? Is the school still responsible for the fee for that student?

A: Yes! The fee is applied not only to the consumables used during your visit, but also to the training costs for both the teachers and facilitators, staff support, and materials, such as the *JA BizTown* Citizen Guide. It also covers the cost of checkbooks used by the students during the on-site visit. The fee is used to help defray the cost of the curriculum in its entirety. It is not merely a charge for the day's simulation visit.

Q: How can I better prepare my students for our upcoming visit?

A: Be certain students are aware that JA BizTown is not a field trip! Please teach all curriculum lessons prior to the visit and see that all BizPrep paperwork for each business is completed at school prior to arrival. Students need to understand that they have a specific role within JA BizTown. We believe that a class discussion about quality vs. quantity is a great way to introduce students to the concept of a quality product being more desirable for purchase than a product that is hastily and sloppily produced.

Q: How can I assist my facilitators/volunteers to be better prepared for the *JA BizTown* visit?

A: Make sure you start early to recruit your facilitators/volunteers. Use the templates from the **Volunteer Information** section on the [JA BizTown teacher page](#) to introduce, invite, and confirm your facilitators' participation at JA BizTown. Verify that all facilitators understand that this is not a field trip, and that they will need to actively participate the day of the visit. This experience is an opportunity for facilitators to use their personal experiences to help students understand money management, teamwork, responsibility, and problem-solving skills. Actively and openly communicate to volunteers what is expected of them, and the commitment required.

Q: Is curriculum training mandatory for teachers?

A: Yes, teacher training is mandatory for all new teachers. We find that the children receive a better educational experience when all teachers are pre-trained and actively engaged in the day. Teacher training is recommended at least 8-10 weeks prior to your simulation date. We also welcome any returning teachers who wish to attend Teacher Training again.

Q: Is the Volunteer Training mandatory for facilitators/volunteers?

A: Yes! The volunteer training helps to prepare the volunteer facilitator on how to best service the students at JA BizTown. There is an online training that is done independently before the simulation date. Volunteer facilitators are also asked to arrive one hour on the day of the simulation for an orientation with the JA BizTown staff.

Q: What if my school has poor parent/volunteer involvement, and I cannot get enough facilitators for our upcoming visit?

A: If you have exhausted all possible volunteer resources, please inform your *JA BizTown* contact staff member of the situation. This may allow us time to find volunteers from the business community to act as facilitators. (However, the key to locating facilitators is to allow people enough time to plan ahead and take time away from work.)