



JA Finance Park® Frequently Asked Questions



JA Finance Park by the Numbers

In the 2010-11 school year, approximately **8,000** students visited JASoCal's Finance Park.

Students came from **15** middle schools, **42** high schools, **18** school districts, and **14** community organizations.



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What is JA Finance Park?

JA Finance Park is an indoor experiential learning complex where students come to gain “real world” financial education experience via an “adult for a day” simulation.

Where is JA Finance Park located?

The only one of its kind in California, **JA Finance Park** is located in Los Angeles (bordering Burbank, and Studio City). Finance Park is central to most school districts that span across Southern California.

Who runs JA Finance Park?

Operationally, **JA Finance Park** is run by Junior Achievement staff members who have been trained and conditioned on the logistics and curriculum of the **JA Finance Park** processes. Functionally, **JA Finance Park** is run by the students who partake in the program and the volunteers that provide guidance and assistance to these students.

When is JA Finance Park operated?

The **JA Finance Park** program is run year round for middle grades and high school students. It is also run during after school hours and during the summer to accommodate the many supplemental education programs that our school systems have to offer.

How long is the JA Finance Park experience?

The **JA Finance Park** experience lasts approximately a full day of instruction for students. The **JA Finance Park** experience itself lasts 4.5 hours, and this does not include the 19 hours of in-class curriculum/preparation the students participate in prior to their day at **JA Finance Park**.

You mean there is curriculum?

Yes, there is curriculum and it is fantastic. The **JA Finance Park** curriculum is administered by the teacher or after school provider and covers the most relevant and crucial skills in financial education, life skills, and workforce readiness. Our curriculum is completely correlated to California State Standards and is a great fit into any type of math, business, life skills, or elective class.

What is the curriculum based upon?

The **JA Finance Park** curriculum is based upon 7 different units that are vital to student success. The first of three math intensive units covers Financial Institutions, followed by a unit covering Taxes and Salaries, and concluding with a unit on Budgeting. Unit 4 of the **JA Finance Park** curriculum consists of an in-class group preparation for the day at **JA Finance Park** which then culminates into Unit 5 “The **JA Finance Park** Experience”. Once the students return back to class after their day of experiential learning, they then participate in unit 6 which is a Reflective Assessment of their experience and conclude their **JA Finance Park** curriculum with Unit 7 which explores their future career goals.



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How does the curriculum work?

The **JA Finance Park** curriculum is administered by the classroom teacher or after school provider. The teacher will be trained by a member of the JA Finance Park staff and will be provided with a teacher guide that consists of lesson plans to accompany each unit as well as an answer key, glossary of terms, and templates that can be used for reproduction purposes. All teachers will also be provided with workbooks for each student. In addition to the curriculum, should the teachers want an assessment of how the **JA Finance Park** program impacts their students, they will also be provided with a pre-/post test to accompany the curriculum as a whole.

How long does each lesson typically take?

Each **JA Finance Park** lesson typically takes between 45 minutes to an hour to complete in class. The curriculum was designed to piggyback the lesson delivered prior, and the lessons as a whole can be given back to back or spread over a period of a couple of lessons per week.

What type of students does *JA Finance Park* cater to?

JA Finance Park caters to all students across Southern California. There is no set student demographic to which the **JA Finance Park** program caters; instead the mission of this program is to give all students a foundational understanding of the money that they will ultimately earn and how best to budget and invest for future success.

How many students at one time can *JA Finance Park* accommodate?

The **JA Finance Park** experience is best kept to 120 students or less during each event. This allows all students individualized attention while also creating a high energy atmosphere that is not over-crowded.

How much does *JA Finance Park* cost?

Due to the generous and ongoing support of our donors, and corporate funders, we are able to offer this program to schools at a reduced rate per student that covers the cost of teacher training, student workbooks, on-site **JA Finance Park** simulation, as well as support to the schools, administrative and otherwise, throughout the entire **JA Finance Park** process. The cost to Junior Achievement for one student to participate in **JA Finance Park** is \$65.17.

What other costs might I need to cover?

The **JA Finance Park** cost does not cover bussing to the **JA Finance Park** facility, student lunches, or fees to have a substitute in class during the teacher visit to **JA Finance Park** for the simulation experience.

Who volunteers at *JA Finance Park*?

JA Finance Park proudly boasts a cadre of exceptional volunteers. From corporate sponsors, to JA staff members, members of the local community, partner organizations, and most importantly parents of the students who participate in this program.

