

Examples of How Junior Achievement Programs Support the National PTA's National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs

National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs:

***Standard I: Communicating—
Communication between home
and school is regular, two-way,
and meaningful.***

In the first activity of each JA program, students are given take-home letters to share with their families. This take-home piece lets parents know what students will be studying in their JA program. Some programs also provide CDs to take home or offer instructions on how to access resources online to increase understanding of the concepts being addressed. Each student receives a certificate to take home upon completion of a program. In addition, at JA's Parent Forum website, parents can ask questions or share information about their children's experiences with a program.

***Standard II: Parenting—
Parenting skills are promoted
and supported.***

No correlation.

***Standard III: Student
Learning—Parents play an
integral role in assisting
student learning.***

JA's unique program-delivery model requires a volunteer for each of its K-12 programs. Junior Achievement actively encourages parents to volunteer in the classroom. Regardless of their profession, parents have valuable life experiences they can share with their children and their children's classmates to help them discover their own unique talents and abilities, learn about the U.S. economic system, become aware of the connection between what they learn in school and their success in life, develop interpersonal and problem-solving skills, and consider personal qualities such as individual responsibility and integrity. Complete classroom materials and training are provided to all JA volunteers to help them succeed as positive adult role models.

***Standard V: School Decision
Making and Advocacy—
Parents are full partners in the
decisions that affect children
and families.***

No correlation.

Standard VI: Collaborating with Community—Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

Junior Achievement collaborates with businesses in local communities to provide funding for JA programs, scholarships, events, and classroom volunteers. In return, JA programs also strengthen the community by helping students understand their roles and responsibilities in the U.S. economic system and learn valuable leadership and citizenship skills to become effective, productive members of society. External evaluations show that JA programs actively engage students in learning through hands-on activities and real-world problem solving. Further, students participating in JA have a positive view of themselves, their education, and their future roles in the U.S. economic system.

In addition, Junior Achievement believes that quality after-school programs for youth are essential and is working with other organizations such as YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H, and the Afterschool Alliance to provide after-school opportunities for students. Junior Achievement is expanding its efforts in this area through program research and development to specifically meet the needs of at-risk children in an after-school setting.

For more information and complete descriptions of each National Standard, please visit National PTA's website at <http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/standards/index.asp>.