



# Jobs for Alabama's Graduates A Smart Investment in the Future



The lifetime cost to taxpayers of **one** dropout is \$292,000. The cost to society is one youth whose incredible future is unrealized. We change this story together through JAG.

Every student that drops out of high school is **63%** more likely to be incarcerated.

The poverty rate for dropouts is **30%** or twice the rate of graduates.

Unemployment rates for dropouts average **12%** (or greater) despite healthy overall economic conditions. Lacking a diploma is a barrier to **88%** of available career options.

Young women who give up on high school are **nine times** more likely to become young single mothers.

Annual earning power of dropouts is **\$8,000-\$10,000 lower** than graduates and \$36,000 lower than a person who earns a bachelor degree.

Dropout students impact our national security because they are **ineligible** to serve in the military.

Lacking opportunity, dropout students commit about **75% of crimes**.

Higher dropout rates **discourage** economic investment in communities.

*Sources: National Center for Education Statistics; Northeastern University; America's Promise; Statistic Brain Resource Institute*





## THE SOLUTION: JAG's PROVEN GRADUATION MODEL

Just one hour per day with a caring adult professional educator with community support leads to 9 out of 10 dropout-bound students successfully reaching graduation with a job, becoming eligible for post-secondary education, or qualifying for military service.

Alabama JAG has successfully used the National JAG Model since 1996 to positively reach 20,000 of our most vulnerable students. The JAG Model has been developed and perfected over 30 years with industry validation and leadership from America's governors, legislators, State Departments of Education, community, and industry leaders.

JAG has identified 33 Barriers to Success. When five or more of these barriers are present in the life of a student, graduation prospects greatly diminish. The JAG program operates on a school campus led by a JAG Education Specialist serving 35-45 students. Students participate each day for at least one hour along with summer services to help students overcome these barriers.

The JAG program includes 87 Curriculum Competencies delivered in Multi-Year and Senior Year formats. An array of services including specialized classroom instruction, individual and group counseling, employability skills development, career association, leadership experiences, and job placement services lead to on-time graduation and a brighter future for students.

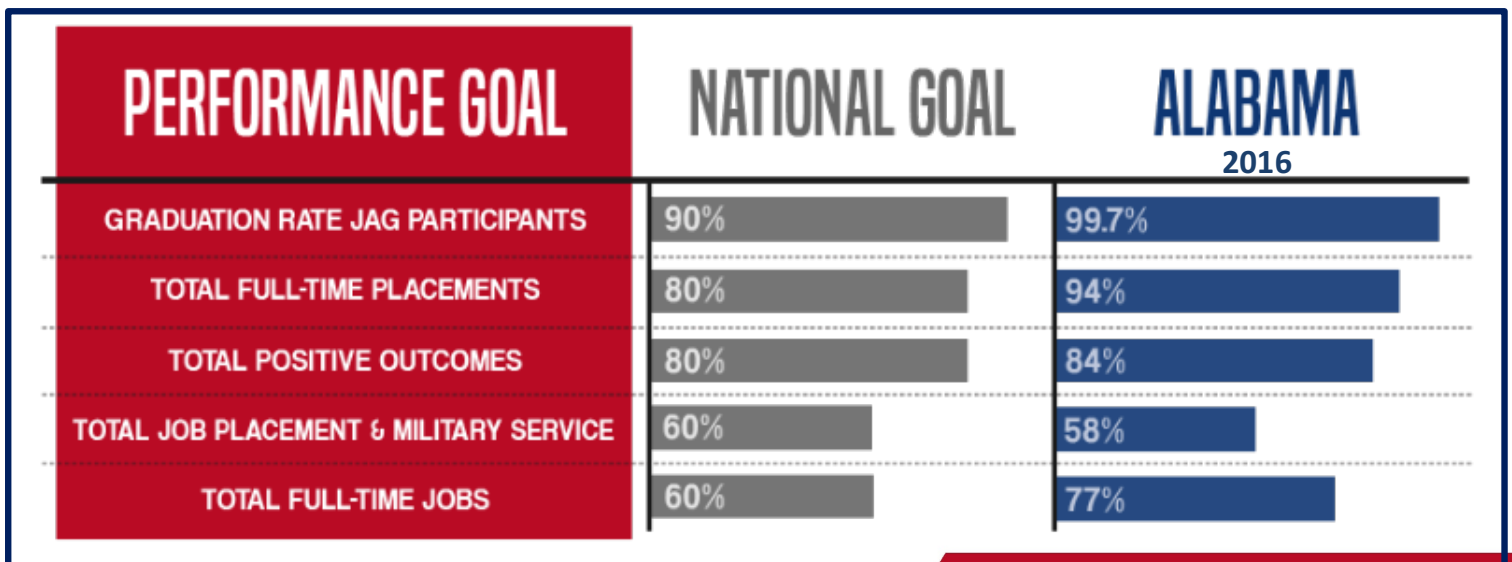
# DATA DRIVEN DROPOUT PREVENTION

Alabama JAG Surpasses National Averages  
Year After Year!



## Why Schools, Communities and Students Love JAG

- **Return to School Rates:** Students involved in JAG have a return-to-school rate ranging from 95-100%.
- **Graduation Rates:** The JAG graduation rate in Alabama for last school year was **99.7%**.
- **Statewide Success:** Of the 333 seniors in the 25 JAG programs in Alabama last year, 332 graduated with a job, were eligible for post-secondary training and education, or entered military service.
- **Economic Benefit:** The average cost to taxpayers of one dropout is \$292,000. The cost of one JAG program is \$75,000. Last year Alabama public and private partners invested \$1.8 million in JAG programs. With a success rate of 332 at-risk students reaching graduation, the lifetime impact from last year's effort alone will yield Alabama \$96 million.





# PARTNER WITH ALABAMA JAG!

## How You Can Be a Hero for Alabama Students

### 5 Ways to be an Alabama JAG HERO

#### **Give**

Bring hope and encouragement to an individual JAG student in your area or to an entire JAG program through a specific tax-deductible charitable contribution to support the basic needs of JAG students not met at home (examples: funds for fuel to get to job opportunities, meals, clothing or even scholarships).

#### **Partner**

Whether it is a 1:1 partnership with a local JAG program, a regional effort through District support, or even a statewide partnership, if you're passionate about the great future of Alabama's students, then we would welcome the opportunity to explore the possibilities and join forces.

#### **Speak**

What makes JAG programs successful is not only specialized classroom instruction and counseling, but also engagement in community-based and career association activities. JAG speakers are especially helpful when they can bring education and leadership lessons to life by sharing their experience and expertise.

#### **Workshop**

Equip, empower, and inspire hundreds of Alabama's most promising and overlooked students who participate in the annual Alabama JAG District or State Career Development Conference.

#### **Launch a Program**

Our goal is to double JAG programs in Alabama. It costs \$75,000 to open a new JAG program. It's a big investment with ten times the return. We are happy to discuss how you or your organization could partially or fully fund a local JAG program and positively transform lives for generations.



# Barriers to Success Identified by JAG

## ACADEMIC BARRIERS

- A.1. One or more modal grades behind peers.
- A.2. Has repeated a grade in high school.
- A.3. Low academic performance (a grade point of C or below or basic academic skills in the bottom quartile of the class).
- A.4. Basic skills deficient (reading and math in particular).
- A.5. Limited English proficiency.
- A.6. Failed state proficiency exam.
- A.7. Past record of excessive absences as verified by school officials.
- A.8. Has been suspended, expelled, or put on probation during high school.
- A.9. Has dropped out of school previously.

## PERSONAL BARRIERS

- P.1. Special education certified (verified by school district or agency).
- P.2. Lacks motivation or maturity to pursue education or career goals.
- P.3. Emotional disorder that impairs education or career goals.
- P.4. Has a disability (documented disabilities only).
- P.5. Health problems that impair education or career goals.

## ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS

- E.1. Family environment is not conducive to education or career goals.
- E.2. Mother did not graduate from high school.
- E.3. Father did not graduate from high school.
- E.4. Mother does not work.
- E.5. Father does not work.
- E.6. Is pregnant (when admitted to the program).
- E.7. Has dependent child or children in the home.
- E.8. Is parenting.
- E.9. Has documented alcohol and/or substance abuse.
- E.10. Convicted of a criminal offense other than a traffic violation.
- E.11. Has a record of violent behavior.
- E.12. Is homeless.
- E.13. Is a runaway.
- E.14. Requires child care during work or school.
- E.15. Needs transportation to and from work or school.
- E.16. Is in foster care.
- E.17. Child of incarcerated parent.
- E.18. Child of a migrant worker.

## INCOME AND WORK-RELATED BARRIERS

- W.1. Is an economically disadvantaged student as defined by public assistance, AFDC, or free lunch.
- W.2. Is a member of a race/ethnic group with a low family income.
- W.3. Has inadequate or no work experience.
- W.4. Lacks marketable occupational skills that are in demand in the local labor market.

## OTHER

- O.1. Other

# Broad Reach with the Opportunity to Grow!



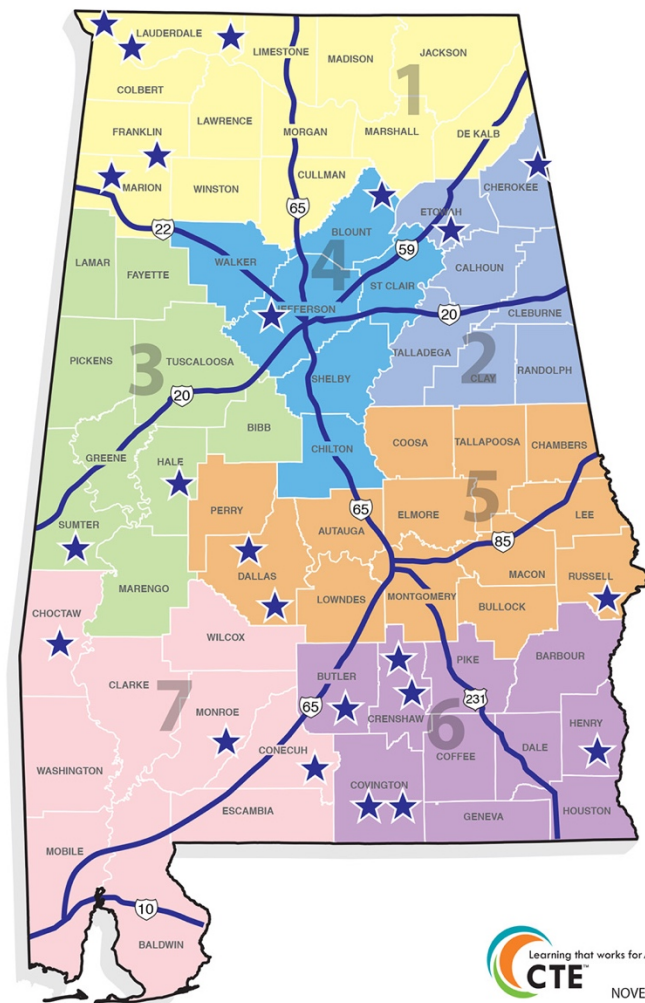
## ★ JAG Programs



- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Attalla City      | - Etowah High School   |
| Blount County     | - Blount County Career Tech Center   |
| Butler County     | - Butler County Career Academy   |
| Cherokee County   | - Cherokee County Career Tech Center   |
| Choctaw County    | - Choctaw County High School   |
| Conecuh County    | - Conecuh County Schools<br>Workforce Development Center                     |
| Covington County  | - Red Level High School<br>Straughn High School                              |
| Crenshaw County   | - Brantley High School<br>Highland Home High School                          |
| Dallas County     | - Keith High School<br>Southside High School                                 |
| Fairfield City    | - Fairfield Preparatory High School  |
| Franklin County   | - Phil Campbell High School  |
| Hale County       | - Hale County College and<br>Career Academy                                  |
| Henry County      | - Headland High School   |
| Lauderdale County | - Central High School<br>Lauderdale County High School<br>Wilson High School |
| Marion County     | - Phillips High School   |
| Monroe County     | - Monroe County Career Tech Center   |
| Russell County    | - Russell County High School   |
| Sumter County     | - Sumter Central High School   |

Jobs for Alabama's Graduates (JAG) is a school-to-career program for at-risk high school youth, using a national model called Jobs for America's Graduates. Currently, the model is offered in thirty states. JAG's mission is to keep young people in school-based and work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities or to enroll in a post-secondary institution that leads to a rewarding career.

## REGIONAL WORKFORCE COUNCILS





## Connect with Alabama JAG!

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Job's for Alabama's Graduates is administered and led by the Alabama State Department of Education, Career Technical Education/Workforce Development Division with the support of the Alabama Legislature and Governor's Office along with local school districts, Career Tech Centers, and community and industry partners.

### **Jobs for Alabama's Graduates**

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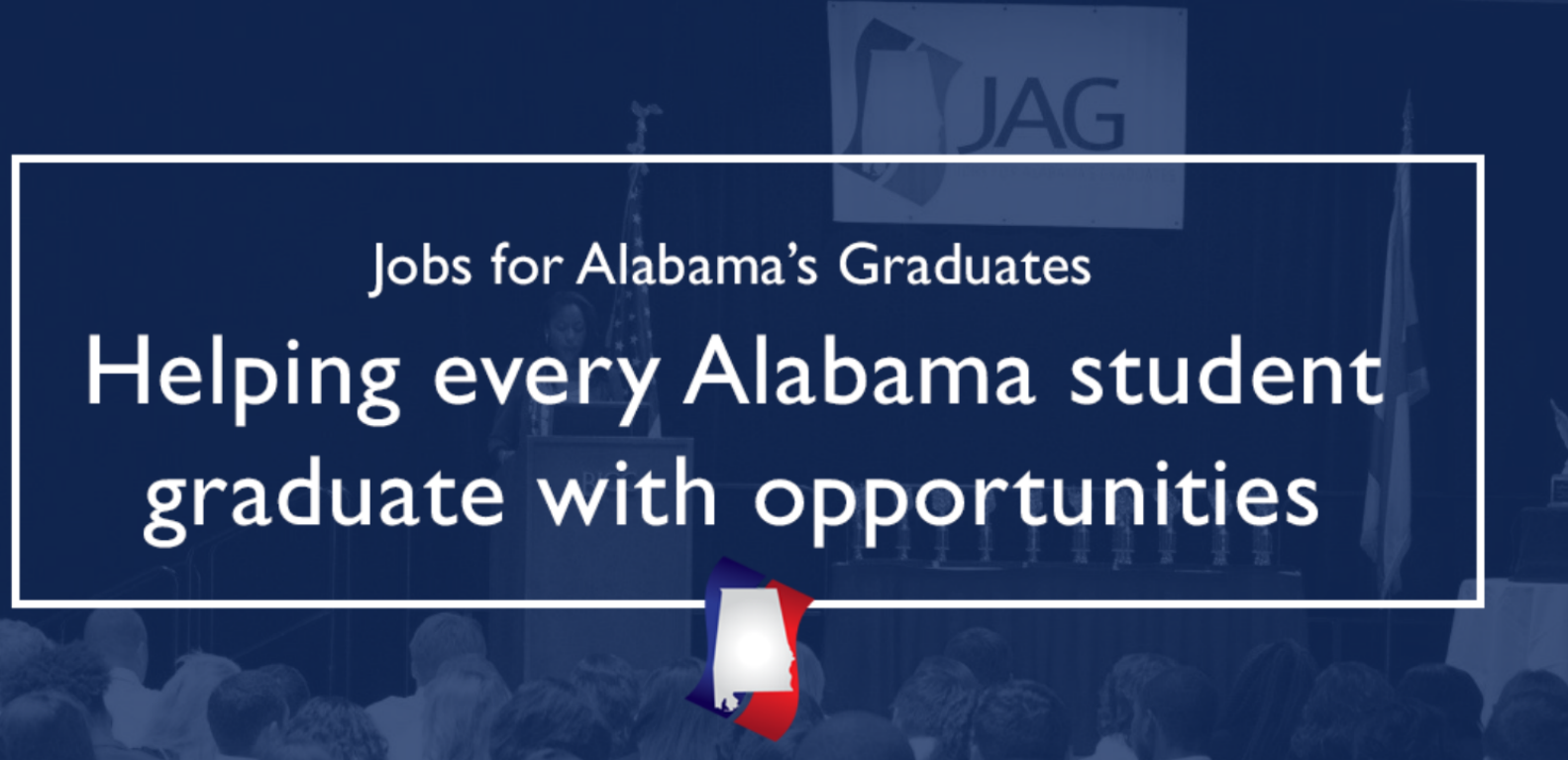
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Jobs for Alabama's Graduates  
**Helping every Alabama student  
graduate with opportunities**