



February 20, 2025

Dear Ohio Representative,

My name is Kalina Traxler, and I serve on the Western Advisory Board for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio, I am a branch manager for Firelands Federal Credit Union, and I also volunteer in our local schools. **I am writing to you to emphasize how valuable Junior Achievement is within our community and to request funding to help sustain this vital program.**

Junior Achievement empowers students through hands-on learning experiences, equipping them with financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial skills in a fun and engaging environment. These skills provide a strong foundation for their future, helping them make informed decisions and understand the economic impact they can have.

I have seen the incredible impact Junior Achievement makes through *Inspire to Hire* events held locally. These events open students' eyes to career opportunities within their own communities. With the increasing participation each year, it is clear how eager and enthusiastic students are to explore opportunities for their future.

Firelands Federal Credit Union supports Junior Achievement each year because we believe empowering students with financial literacy and preparing them for success in the global economy is essential and deserves strong support.

When we invest in children at this stage, we're shaping future leaders, entrepreneurs, and responsible decision-makers who will strengthen our communities for years to come.

We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties. I believe this investment will enhance Junior Achievement's ability to reach more students as well as help students become more financially responsible members of society, ensuring their success within Ohio's communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kalina Traxler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kalina" and last name "Traxler" clearly legible.

Kalina Traxler

Firelands FCU Branch Manager

traxlerk@firelandsfcu.org

Direct: 567-743-9304

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 8005
Bellevue, OH 44811

Bellevue

300 North St.
Bellevue, OH 44811

Bucyrus

2100 E. Mansfield St.
Bucyrus, OH 44820

Galion

1222 SR 598
Galion, OH 44833

Norwalk

175 Cleveland Rd.
Norwalk, OH 44857

Monroeville

169 Ridge St. N.
Monroeville, OH 44847

Sandusky

325 W. Perkins Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870



February 5, 2025

Honorable Representative Brian Stewart
Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Senator Jerry Cirino
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, First Floor 127
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Junior Achievement's Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Programming Initiative - State Budget Request

At AEP Ohio, we are committed to powering communities—both through the energy we provide and the investments we make in the people who call them home. A strong, prepared workforce is essential to the future of Ohio's economy, which is why we are proud to support Junior Achievement of Central Ohio (JA) and their mission to equip students with financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship skills.

The requested funding will allow JA to expand its impact, reaching even more students, educators, and schools. We encourage others to join us in supporting this important work because when we invest in our students today, we strengthen our communities for tomorrow.

As a longtime significant supporter of Junior Achievement, we recognize the critical role JA plays in closing the workforce skills gap. By expanding its reach across 25 counties in central, southern, and eastern Ohio, JA is ensuring that more students—starting as early as middle school—gain the knowledge and real-world experiences needed to make informed career and financial decisions. This is especially vital as Ohio faces a tightening labor market and increasing demand for skilled talent in key industries.

AEP Ohio is also proud to annually support JA Finance Park at both the Columbus and Newark Learning Centers. This hands-on program gives middle school students a transformative experience in financial decision-making, helping them build skills that will serve them for a lifetime. By supporting JA, we are investing in the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and community leaders—the very people who will drive Ohio's economic growth and energy future.

Sincerely,

Angie Rybalt

Director Customer Experience, AEP Ohio



Brittany O'Connor
1215 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

216-855-2868
brittany.k.oconnor@citizensbank.com

February 14, 2025

Honorable Matt Huffman
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Rob McColley
President, Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square 2nd Floor Room 201
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support for Junior Achievement of Ohio's State Budget Request

On behalf of Citizens, I am writing to express our support for Junior Achievement of Ohio's request for \$5.5 million in the 2025-2026 operating budget. As a long-standing partner of Junior Achievement, I have seen firsthand the impact their programs have in equipping young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed financial decisions, pursue career goals, and contribute to a thriving economy.

At Citizens, helping people understand their finances and recognize the opportunities available to them is one of our highest priorities. Through our partnership with Junior Achievement of Ohio, we provide funding and volunteer support to help students gain real-world knowledge on topics such as budgeting, credit, taxes, responsible investing, and career readiness. However, the need for financial education remains critical— Citizens and Junior Achievement USA's 2024 Teen Financial Wellness Survey found that while 73% of the surveyed teens were interested in money management classes, only 42% said personal finance had been taught at their school.

The requested funding will allow Junior Achievement of Ohio to expand programming to help address this need, ensuring that more students gain the financial confidence needed for lifelong success. By investing in youth financial education today, we can help shape a financially capable workforce and a stronger, more resilient economy for the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany O'Connor".

Brittany O'Connor
Public Affairs Market Manager
Citizens



cardinalhealth.com

February 25, 2025

Honorable Representative Brian Stewart
Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Stewart,

At Cardinal Health, we are committed to improving lives every day—both through the healthcare solutions we provide and by investing in the future workforce. As a long-time supporter and board member of Junior Achievement of Central Ohio, I have seen firsthand how Junior Achievement equips students with the financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurial skills needed to thrive in today's rapidly evolving economy.

Cardinal Health proudly supports Junior Achievement BizTown in the Columbus Learning Center, where students engage in a simulated economy, and broader programming, reaching over 36,000 students annually—many from low- to moderate-income households.

To expand reach and ensure more students across Ohio gain access to Junior Achievement's learning experiences, we support the inclusion of an amendment to HB 96, allocating \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This investment will allow Junior Achievement to strengthen its impact across Ohio, helping students develop actionable career plans and become part of our state's future workforce. With labor participation on the decline and industries like ours facing pressing talent shortages, workforce development has never been more essential. Junior Achievement provides students with hands-on learning opportunities, preparing them for real-world success. And the results speak for themselves—Junior Achievement alumni are more financially independent, report higher career satisfaction and make informed career choices that benefit them and the economy.

By securing this funding, Junior Achievement will have the ability to reach even more students, teachers and schools across the state. Cardinal Health encourages support of this initiative—because investing in students today means building a stronger workforce and economy for Ohio's future.

Sincerely,

Jason Hollar
Chief Executive Officer



February 5, 2025

Honorable Representative Brian Stewart
Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Senator Jerry Cirino
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, First Floor 127
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Junior Achievement's Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Programming Initiative - State Budget Request

On behalf of Newark City Schools, I am writing to express our strong support for the joint state operating budget appropriation request that, if approved, will measurably expand Junior Achievement's programming, benefiting local youth, schools, teachers, and communities—not just in Newark, but across the broader region. This investment will enhance opportunities for students to build the financial literacy, career readiness, and leadership skills they need to succeed in an evolving workforce.

At Newark City Schools, we are committed to providing students with meaningful, real-world learning experiences, which is why we are proud to partner with Junior Achievement of Central Ohio (JA) in bringing JA BizTown and JA Finance Park to the new JA Learning Center in Newark. Through this initiative, students from Newark and surrounding districts will gain hands-on experience managing personal finances, making career decisions, and understanding how businesses operate—critical skills that will shape their futures.

This partnership is part of a larger vision for the former State Farm building, where we are creating a hub for lifelong learning that serves students and the community. With Junior Achievement's expertise, we will provide thousands of students each year with immersive financial and career education experiences. These programs will help bridge the gap between education and workforce needs, ensuring students are well-prepared for high-growth industries in our region.

On behalf of Newark City Schools, I wholeheartedly support the continued expansion of Junior Achievement in our region. I encourage others to invest in this initiative, which is helping prepare today's students for tomorrow's opportunities and strengthening both our schools and our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Lewis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David L. Lewis
Superintendent
Newark City Schools

February 25, 2025

Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative,

My name is Jason Trimbach, Advisor for 2J Supply HVAC Distributors in Dayton, Ohio. I am a proud supporter and board member of Junior Achievement (JA) of OKI Partners, serving 27 counties in western and southern Ohio. I am writing to share information on the impact JA has on the lives of young people.

JA plays a pivotal role in helping to prepare students across our state for careers in their communities. Especially important are the opportunities JA provides to connect with professionals in the workforce to facilitate career exploration. These opportunities, combined with the pivotal role of educating young minds on topics related to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness, provide a foundation for future success.

2J Supply HVAC Distributors has both participated in and been witness to the positive impact of JA's initiatives. A primary example is engagement with students through the JA Inspire events that happen across Western Ohio. Over the past five years, companies have been able to directly connect with and engage students to discuss careers within their area of interest. These face-to-face interactions with students are invaluable for talent recruitment. These events are primary sources for giving the students a chance to better understand their place in the workforce.

The work JA does in Ohio is vital to the development of students that will one day be the workforce that our state depends on. *I ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year for Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.*

I fully support this request. Ohio relies on organizations like JA to provide the continued development of students to ensure the prosperity of our state through its companies.

Sincerely,



Jason Trimbach
Advisor

February 5, 2025

Honorable Representative Brian Stewart
Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Senator Jerry Cirino
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, First Floor 127
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Junior Achievement's Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Programming Initiative - State Budget Request

On behalf of Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center (ESC), I am writing to express our strong support for the joint state operating budget appropriation request, which, if approved, will significantly expand Junior Achievement's programming and impact students, schools, and communities across our region. Investing in hands-on, experiential education is critical to preparing students for Ohio's evolving workforce, and Junior Achievement's programs play a vital role in that mission.

The requested budget appropriation will provide the resources necessary to sustain and expand these efforts, ensuring that students in our region—regardless of their background—have access to high-quality career readiness programs. Investing in Junior Achievement is an investment in Ohio's future workforce, and we are excited to continue working together to provide students with the opportunities they need to achieve more.

Muskingum Valley ESC is proud to have partnered with Junior Achievement to host JA Inspire in October 2024, bringing together students, educators, and local businesses for a career exploration event that connects students with real-world opportunities. This event provided students across our region with exposure to in-demand careers while helping employers engage with the future workforce. This type of programming is essential for ensuring students understand the pathways available to them and are equipped with the skills needed to succeed. Beyond JA Inspire, Junior Achievement's commitment to workforce readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship education aligns closely with Muskingum Valley ESC's focus on developing strong school-to-career connections. Expanding JA's reach into new districts will allow even more students to benefit from interactive, skills-based learning experiences that directly prepare them for their futures.

Sincerely,



Eastin Lewellen
Director of Workforce Development
Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center

Dear Representative,

My name is Ryan Pedone, and I have been actively involved with Junior Achievement through my high school. My experience with JA has not only shaped my personal growth but also equipped me with the leadership skills I use every day in my community.

Junior Achievement has helped me grow my skills in leadership and entrepreneurship. It has given me the confidence to take on challenges and think in new ways, which has helped me in school, work, and everyday life. I've also seen how JA makes a big impact in the community by giving students the tools they need to become leaders and make a difference in the future.

My most influential JA experience was giving my pitch to become CEO. I have always struggled with being a leader, and running for CEO was a choice—I could have avoided it. But I challenged myself, stepping out of my comfort zone to take on a leadership role for my future team. I developed my pitch, memorized it, took a deep breath, and delivered it. I stuttered a few times, but I got my point across. I was passionate about this business management class and determined to lead my JA company, no matter what it took. A few others gave their CEO pitches, and I thought some of them were really good—possibly even better than mine. After everyone finished, we voted. Mine and another person's pitches were chosen as the best, which meant we both became CEOs of our respective companies. At first, I felt out of place. I had never really considered myself a leader before. Suddenly, I had to conduct interviews and decide who to bring onto my team based on my own judgment. This experience had a huge impact on me. I had always feared leadership, thinking I wasn't good enough, but through JA, I overcame that fear. Since then, I have stepped up as a leader in other areas of my life, becoming more confident and proactive rather than simply following others. JA gave me the opportunity to grow as a person and taught me how to take control in a leadership role. Being a CEO showed me the importance of decision-making, communication, and responsibility. This experience will make me a stronger contributor to society because I can apply these leadership skills to my future endeavors, whether in business or life. I also hope to inspire others to embrace leadership and serve as a role model to my peers.

In light of my experience and the ongoing impact JA has in our communities, I respectfully request that you support the following amendment to HB 96:

We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I welcome any opportunity to discuss my JA experience further, and I can be reached at ryanpedone11@gmail.com or 330-347-7090.

Sincerely, 

Ryan Pedone

ryanpedone11@gmail.com

330-347-7090

LICKING REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

145 N. QUENTIN ROAD
NEWARK, OHIO 43055
(P) 740-349-6084
(F) 740-349-6107
www.lcesc.org

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TRI-VALLEY
ZANESVILLE

February 5, 2025

Honorable Representative Brian Stewart

Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Stewart,

RE: Junior Achievement's Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Programming Initiative - State Budget Request

On behalf of the Licking Regional Educational Service Center (ESC), I am writing to express our strong support for the joint state operating budget appropriation request, which, if approved, will significantly expand Junior Achievement's programming, benefiting students, schools, and communities across our region. This investment is essential to ensuring that students gain the financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial skills needed to succeed in an evolving workforce.

Through our partnership with Junior Achievement of Central Ohio, we have played a critical role in expanding JA's reach into Licking and surrounding counties, making it possible to engage students in areas that had not previously been served. With the establishment of the JA Learning Center in Newark, students from multiple new districts—including Southwest Licking Local, Licking Valley Local and Northridge Local—now have access to immersive financial and career education programs. Additionally, districts that previously traveled to Columbus for JA programs can now transition to the Newark center, keeping students closer to home while opening opportunities for even more schools in counties such as Knox, Muskingum, and Coshocton to participate. Our organization has invested \$40,000 per year to support the location manager position as a commitment to the benefit provided by the center.

The requested budget appropriation will provide critical resources to sustain and grow these efforts, allowing Junior Achievement to fund staff, increase engagement across new districts, and serve as a model for future regional partnerships. Expanding this initiative will ensure that more students—regardless of their background or location—have access to the hands-on learning experiences that empower them to achieve more.

On behalf of Licking Regional ESC, I strongly support this initiative and encourage others to invest in Junior Achievement's expansion. Together, we can ensure that students in our region are prepared for successful futures in an increasingly competitive workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale E. Lewellen".

Dale Lewellen
Superintendent
Licking Regional Educational Service Center
145 N. Quentin Road, Newark OH 43055
dl Lewellen@lcesc.org

740-349-6084



February 25, 2025

Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative,

My name is Joe Hinson, President & Chief Executive Officer of the West Chester ■ Liberty Chamber Alliance in West Chester, Ohio. I am a proud supporter and volunteer of Junior Achievement (JA) of OKI Partners, serving 27 counties in western and southern Ohio. I am writing to share information on the impact JA has on the lives of young people.

JA plays a pivotal role in helping to prepare students across our state for careers in their communities. Especially important are the opportunities JA provides to connect with professionals in the workforce to facilitate career exploration. These opportunities, combined with the pivotal role of educating young minds on topics related to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness, provide a foundation for future success.

The West Chester ■ Liberty Chamber Alliance has both participated in and been witness to the positive impact of JA's initiatives. A primary example is engagement with students through the JA Inspire events that happen across Western Ohio. Over the past five years, companies have been able to directly connect with and engage students to discuss careers within their area of interest. These face-to-face interactions with students are invaluable for talent recruitment. These events are primary sources for giving the students a chance to better understand their place in the workforce.

The work JA does in Ohio is vital to the development of students that will one day be the workforce that our state depends on. *I ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year for Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.*

I fully support this request. Ohio relies on organizations like JA to provide the continued development of students to ensure the prosperity of our state through its companies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hinson". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and "H".

Joseph A. Hinson, IOM
President & Chief Executive Officer



February 25th, 2025

The Honorable Scott Oelslager
Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Oelslager,

As a proud business owner and longtime advocate for Junior Achievement, I am writing to express my strong support for state funding to expand Junior Achievement's vital programs across Ohio. My name is Jon Mann, and I have had the privilege of serving on the Junior Achievement board of directors for over 30 years. As the owner of a custom promotional products company, I understand firsthand the critical role financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial education play in preparing our young people for the workforce.

Throughout my tenure with Junior Achievement, I have served in various leadership roles and volunteered in classrooms across Stark County, witnessing the transformative impact of JA programs on students. JA provides hands-on, real-world experiences that equip students with essential skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship—skills that are increasingly necessary in today's economy. These programs are crucial in helping students develop actionable career plans, empowering them to succeed in an ever-changing workforce and contribute to Ohio's economic future.

We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.

With Ohio's growing industries demanding a skilled workforce, JA's mission has never been more important. By investing in Junior Achievement, we are investing in the future of Ohio's students, businesses, and communities. I urge you to support this amendment and help ensure that every young person in our state has access to the tools and knowledge necessary for lifelong success.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share more about the tangible impact Junior Achievement has had on Ohio's students and future workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jon Mann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Mann
Owner and Co-Founder, Mann Marketing



The Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Bo Tokarski, PhD, MBA
419-565-5761
bo.tokarski@crl.com

Dear Representative,

My name is Bo Tokarski, Manager of the Analytical Chemistry Department at Charles River Laboratories in Ashland, Ohio. I am a proud former student/volunteer of Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania (2006-2011) and current supporter and board member of Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio (2023-Present). I am writing on behalf of Charles River Laboratories, Ashland facility to express the company's support for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio (JANCO).

Junior Achievement plays a pivotal role in helping to prepare students across the region for careers within the communities in which they live. Especially important are the opportunities Junior Achievement continues to provide students to connect with professionals in the community to facilitate career exploration. These opportunities, combined with the pivotal role of educating young minds on topics related to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness, provide a foundation for future success.

As a company, Charles River Laboratories has both participated in and been witness to the positive impact of JANCO's initiatives. A primary example is engagement with students through the *JA Inspire* events across the North Central Ohio region over the past three years, where Charles River employees have been able to directly connect with and engage students to discuss careers within the pharmaceutical industry. These face-to-face interactions with students are an invaluable for student engagement and talent recruitment. These events are primary sources for giving the students a chance to better understand the work Charles River does while serving as a recruiting tool for talented students seeking a career in the pharmaceutical industry. Charles River Laboratories very much looks forward to participating in and sponsoring these events, with the continued desire to facilitate the development of the future workforce in Ohio.

The work JANCO does is vital to the continued development of students in the North Central Ohio region that will one day be the workforce that this region depends upon. We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties. Charles River Laboratories fully supports this request, as the company relies upon the continued development of students to ensure the continued prosperity of Ohio through its companies.

Sincerely,

Bo Tokarski, PhD, MBA
Manager, Analytical Chemistry Department
Charles River Laboratories, Ashland, Ohio

Matthew Smith
9250 Hocking St NW
Massillon, OH 44646
matt.nm.smith@gmail.com
330.704.6380

February 23, 2025

Dear Representative,


My name is Matthew Smith, a student from Massillon, OH, who attends Jackson High School. Undoubtedly, the most impactful part of my high school career has been Junior Achievement; getting the opportunity to learn a multitude of lessons and skills has been an invaluable experience. Thus, I am writing to you concerning an amendment to House Bill 96.

Throughout my three years within the Junior Achievement company program, I have learned countless different lessons and skills shaping me as an individual and preparing me for my professional career. The most influential lesson I learned through JA was failure. For many, failure is seen as a negative experience, however I learned to take failure and use it to propel me forward for growth and opportunity. There were many instances throughout my JA experiences where I failed, I felt defeated, I wanted to quit, and I wanted to just give up. However, I knew that if I took this path I would only fail myself, thus I had to bounce back and work even harder to accomplish my goals throughout the program. A prime example of this was my first year in the program. Our company successfully brought a product to market and created a thriving business, but in many ways we had points where we failed to execute a task, failed to delegate/lead, and failed to adapt, these were just a few of many failures. Coming back for my second year of the program I applied these failures and used the new opportunity of a new year to make these weak points a success. From the outside, many saw this year as a success, yet on the inside were so many failures to be improved upon. Coming back for year three, I realize that I will never have perfection; but, what I can do is build upon failures, learn lessons, and move forward. Failure is inevitably part of life and learning to capitalize and overcome it has been just one of the many valuable lessons Junior Achievement has taught me and a testament to the impact it has had on my life.

We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to

resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce; the funding will support programs in all 88 counties. Junior Achievement has had an immeasurable impact on my life and I want to see future students have the same plethora of opportunities. Access to these programs is life changing, and with your support, youth across Ohio will be equipped with the skills for the workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Smith". The signature is stylized with a large, loopy "M" and a cursive "Smith".

Matthew Smith

Schaeffler Transmission Systems, LLC - Wooster
3401 Old Airport Road · Wooster, OH 44691

The Honorable Matt Huffman
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio

Dear Representative Huffman,

I am writing to express our support for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio and their vital work in preparing young people for successful futures. At Schaeffler as our business grows, we recognize the increasing challenges businesses face in hiring qualified individuals. We believe programs like Junior Achievement are crucial in addressing these challenges by connecting students with businesses at an early age.

This early connection is essential for expanding students' awareness of the diverse career opportunities available within our communities. Junior Achievement programs effectively place students on a path to career success, offering valuable exposure to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs which enable them to gain practical training even before graduating high school.

We have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of Junior Achievement's initiatives. The recent JA Inspire events, for example, were a resounding success, demonstrating impressive attendance and remarkable student engagement. These events exemplify how Junior Achievement facilitates meaningful connections between students and businesses. We at Schaeffler are eager to continue our collaboration with Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio as we collectively work to develop our future workforce.

Junior Achievement of Ohio plays a critical role in securing Ohio's economic future by equipping young people with the tools and knowledge needed to build bright futures. Their transformative programs focus on essential financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial skills. We understand that Junior Achievement of Ohio is requesting \$5.5 million in the upcoming 2025-2026 state operating budget to expand their vital work across the state. Schaeffler fully supports this funding request. We believe this investment will significantly enhance Junior Achievement's ability to empower more students and contribute to a stronger, more prosperous Ohio.

Sincerely,



Lisa Armstrong (Feb 6, 2025 10:42 PST)

Lisa Armstrong

Ms. / Director, Corporate Strategy & Dev. Americas

2/6/2025

Lisa Armstrong

Ms. / Director, Corporate Strategy & Dev.
Americas
NZ/IBC-B

Lisa.armstrong@schaeffler.com

Phone: +13302026466

Joe Chaddock
Superintendent

6057 Strip Avenue NW
North Canton, OH 44720



Vision - Service - Leadership

www.starkcountyesc.org

James Carman
Treasurer

Phone: (330) 492-8136 • Fax: (330) 492-6381
Auto Attendant: (330) 493-6082

February 3, 2025

Matt Huffman
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Huffman:

I am writing on behalf of the Stark County Educational Service Center to express our strong support for Junior Achievement of Ohio and their crucial work in preparing young people across the state for a successful future. As an organization committed to the education of Ohio's youth, we recognize that the economic prosperity of Ohio is deeply rooted in ensuring that our youth are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to navigate the complexities of today's world.

Junior Achievement of Ohio stands at the forefront of this mission, providing transformative educational programs that instill vital financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial skills in students from diverse backgrounds. Through their hands-on learning experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of the economic forces shaping their futures and acquire the tools to make informed decisions, all of which lay a strong foundation for the state's future workforce.

As part of our commitment to helping students succeed, we partner with Junior Achievement in a variety of ways. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that Junior Achievement programs have on students and the communities they serve, and we believe this work is invaluable.

We understand that Junior Achievement of Ohio is seeking a budget allocation of \$5.5 million in the upcoming 2025-2026 state operating budget to help expand their reach and enhance their ability to provide high-quality programming to more students across the state. We fully support

this funding request and urge you to consider it as a critical investment in the future of Ohio's young people and the state's economic growth.

With this funding, Junior Achievement will be able to scale their programs, ensuring that even more students have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary for success in the 21st century economy. We believe that by supporting Junior Achievement, we are investing in Ohio's long-term success – empowering young people to dream big, take action, and build bright futures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We stand united with Junior Achievement of Ohio in their mission and look forward to seeing the continued positive impact their programs will have on the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and citizens.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,



Joe Chaddock
Superintendent
Stark County Educational Service Center
joe.chaddock@starkesc.org



SōL Harris/Day Architecture

Designed for People. Designed for Life.

February 28, 2025

Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express my support for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio.

As a partner at SoL Harris/Day Architecture, the largest architecture firm in Stark County, and Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio board member, I have witnessed firsthand the impact this origination has had of students in our community.

Junior Achievement's proven lessons in financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship are shown to positively impact the lives of young people. These lessons align with state educational standards and are delivered to thousands of students across the state with the help of our education partners and volunteers from the local community.

Research shows that Junior Achievement Alumni are more likely to have a college degree, feel confident managing money, have career success, and have started a business as an adult.

We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.

Sincerely,

Justin Gantz, AIA
Partner

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Jim Thomas
Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Thomas,

I'm Katie Tolin, a business owner and absolute champion for Junior Achievement. Yes, I'm a current long-term board member and volunteer for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio, having even served a term as board chair, but most importantly – I'm a proud JA alum!

At my first job out of college, I instantly started volunteering for the organization that shaped me into the budding professional I was. I continued to give back more every year saying yes to nearly everything I was asked to do for JA. And though that all, there has not been a single school year where I was not in a classroom setting volunteering to bring real-life knowledge and experience to our local youth.

As the mom of one and aunt to 10 nieces and nephews currently enrolled in Canton-area schools, I have seen how Junior Achievement has impacted many of them (and the rest are anxiously awaiting to see if JA will come to them).

- Brady got to travel to a JA BizTown in elementary school to learn about careers in our community. He called to tell me he was assigned to work for State Farm Insurance in the role-play experience. And with complete seriousness, he asked his mom to go buy him khakis and a red polo so he could be "Jake" in the State Farm commercials. We started laughing, but to this day he still shares how others were jealous of his "uniform" and that learning about insurance was something he didn't know about.
- Tyler, who was originally mortified to hear that I'd be volunteering in his classroom, will still mention something I taught that day while looking at me with the silliest smirk.
- And Riley was the exact opposite, telling everyone in her class that I was coming in with Junior Achievement to teach them. She had them convinced I'd given her all the answers in advance. She remembers those valuable lessons and is carrying them into high school this year.

Compare that to my personal story where JA taught me imperative entrepreneurial skills as I served as president of two different student-led companies in high school. It became a passion for me and is 100% why I was not afraid to make the jump mid-career from employee to business owner.

And there are so many other students I worked with along the way who were impacted positively by JA – the one I helped land a job at the company I was working with, the one who faced tremendous challenges and a big triumph advocating for what he believed to be right, the team competing in a global competition in March representing the United States. These are all students who have (or will soon) used their JA experience to become contributing, successful members of our community.

None of this is possible though if we cannot first introduce our kids to jobs they didn't even know existed right here in Ohio. Jobs they can be passionate about. Jobs that will let them provide for themselves and future families. Jobs that will encourage some of them to venture out and start Ohio-based businesses. An American Student Assistance survey found that 45% of high school students feel like they don't have enough information to make career decisions. JA is aiming to fix that, and we need your support.

I'm asking that you include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.

Kids gravitate toward jobs they are familiar with, making career exploration a crucial step of the education process. Let's work together to help students find their passions for jobs here in Ohio. That way they can become valuable contributors to our economy, driving Ohio strongly into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katharine Tolin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katharine" and last name "Tolin" clearly distinguishable.

Katharine (Katie) A. Tolin
President and Chief Growth Guide, CPA Growth Guides LLC



Tri-County Educational Service Center

741 Winkler Drive Wooster Ohio 44691

James Ritchie, Superintendent

February 18, 2025

Matt Huffman

Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

77 South High Street, 14th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Huffman,

I am writing to express my strong support for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio (JA) and to encourage consideration of their request for \$5.5 million in the upcoming 2025-2026 operating budget. As a Career Connections Consultant and leader of the Tri-County Educational Service Center (ESC) Business Advisory Council Consortium, I have seen firsthand the tremendous impact JA has had on students across our region.

Tri-County ESC serves 18 school districts across Ashland, Holmes, and Wayne Counties, and our partnership with Junior Achievement has been invaluable in expanding career exploration and workforce development opportunities for students. Their *Inspire to Hire* event in Wayne County and the *Destination Careers* event in Ashland have provided students with critical exposure to career pathways, allowing them to engage with local businesses and industry leaders. Additionally, JA's involvement in presenting to students in our *Envision Your Future* program has further reinforced career readiness and financial literacy among students in our communities.

JA's programs align seamlessly with our mission to help students identify their aptitudes and interests, ensuring they leave high school with a solid plan for their future—whether that be employment, education, or enlistment. Their financial literacy curriculum has also been instrumental in supporting schools as they implement new state requirements for financial education, and JA representatives consistently go above and beyond to collaborate with educators and provide valuable resources.



Tri-County Educational Service Center

741 Winkler Drive Wooster Ohio 44691

James Ritchie, Superintendent

The support and expertise provided by Junior Achievement have strengthened the connection between schools, businesses, and workforce development agencies, ensuring that students are prepared with both the technical and soft skills needed for in-demand careers. Their dedication to empowering students through experiential learning is unmatched, and continued funding will allow them to expand their critical work across Ohio.

On behalf of Tri-County ESC and the districts we serve, I urge your support of Junior Achievement's funding request. Investing in JA is an investment in Ohio's future workforce, ensuring that students across our state have access to essential career exploration, financial literacy, and workforce readiness programs.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Beth Gaubatz, EdS

Education Consultant

tesc_bgaubatz@tccsa.net



JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

5735 WALES AVENUE N.W., JACKSON TOWNSHIP, OHIO 44646

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February 25, 2025

Representative Oelslager
77 S High St 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Oelslager,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Jackson Township, Stark County, we are writing to express our strong support for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio and their essential work in preparing young people for a successful future. As a local political subdivision, we understand that Ohio's economic prosperity depends on equipping our youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to navigate today's complex world.

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio plays a critical role in this mission by delivering transformative educational programs that foster financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial skills. Through hands-on learning experiences, students gain valuable insights into economic forces shaping their futures and acquire the tools to make informed decisions—laying a strong foundation for Ohio's future workforce.

Trustee Hawke has served on the board of Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio for 17 years and has firsthand experience with the impact its mission has on students in Jackson Township, Stark County, the Region and across the State.

We ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year for Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.

By scaling its programs with this funding, Junior Achievement will empower even more students with the skills necessary for success in the 21st-century economy. Supporting Junior Achievement is an investment in Ohio's long-term success—one that empowers young people to dream big, act, and build bright futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request. We stand united with Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio in their mission and look forward to the continued positive impact their programs will have on the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and engaged citizens.


Todd J. Hawke, Chairman


John E. Pizzino, Trustee


Justin Hardesty, Vice-Chairman


Kody Gonzalez, Fiscal Officer



February 26, 2025

Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative,

My name is Tom Daskalakis, Chief Executive Officer of Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Ohio. I am a proud supporter and board member of Junior Achievement (JA) of OKI Partners, serving 27 counties in western and southern Ohio. I am writing to share information on the impact JA has on the lives of young people.

JA plays a pivotal role in helping to prepare students across our state for careers in their communities. Especially important are the opportunities JA provides to connect with professionals in the workforce to facilitate career exploration. These opportunities, combined with the pivotal role of educating young minds on topics related to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness, provide a foundation for future success.

The West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance has both participated in and been witness to the positive impact of JA's initiatives. A primary example is engagement with students through the JA Inspire events that happen across Western Ohio. Over the past five years, companies have been able to directly connect with and engage students to discuss careers within their area of interest. These face-to-face interactions with students are invaluable for talent recruitment. These events are primary sources for giving the students a chance to better understand their place in the workforce.

The work JA does in Ohio is vital to the development of students that will one day be the workforce that our state depends on. *I ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year for Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. The funding will support programs in all 88 counties.*

I fully support this request. Ohio relies on organizations like JA to provide the continued development of students to ensure the prosperity of our state through its companies.

Sincerely,

Tom Daskalakis
Chief Executive Officer

February 28, 2025

Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative,

This letter is to support Junior Achievement and an ask for an amendment to be included in HB 96. As a manager at Rea & Associates specializing in public entities assurance, and a real estate investor, I have seen firsthand how Junior Achievement (JA) plays a vital role in preparing students for the workforce and entrepreneurial success.

Junior Achievement provides essential career readiness skills, creating pathways for students to explore various professions, including skilled trades and business ownership. As a real estate investor, I recognize the importance of exposing students to diverse career opportunities beyond traditional college routes. A strong, diverse talent pool benefits our communities by fostering innovation and economic growth.

JA equips young people with financial literacy, business knowledge, and problem-solving skills necessary to become valuable employees and successful entrepreneurs. By connecting students with business leaders for hands-on experiences, Junior Achievement ensures that they are prepared to contribute meaningfully to Ohio's workforce. The work we do today is not for us but for future generations, and from what I have seen firsthand, JA's programs have a proven impact that excites me for what's ahead.

To expand these opportunities statewide, we ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will ensure that every student in Ohio has access to the resources needed to make informed career choices and contribute to our economy. The support will enable JA to continue its programming in all 88 counties, shaping the next generation of business leaders and skilled professionals.

I urge you to support this amendment and invest in the future of Ohio's workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Snyder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" and last name "Snyder" clearly legible.

Catherine "Katie" Snyder
Registered Voter
catherinelsnyder@gmail.com

Michael H. Babb
3966 Bellaire Lane
Peninsula, Ohio 44264
Michaelbabb1@icloud.com

2/20/25

Ohio House
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative,

I am a longtime supporter and donor for Junior Achievement and currently serve as a board member for Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio. I have also been a volunteer instructor for the organization.

I have seen firsthand that Junior Achievement has benefited many people I know in my community. Their educational classes promote entrepreneurial skills, career readiness, and overall financial literacy.

I ask you to include an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement. This funding will expand JA's impact statewide, ensuring that every student has access to resources that empower them to make actionable career plans and contribute to Ohio's workforce. This funding will support programs in all 88 counties.

Thank you for your consideration of this important funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Babb", written in a cursive style.

Michael H. Babb

CENTRAL OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Office of the President
John M. Berry, Ph.D.

February 27, 2025

Honorable Representative Brian Stewart
Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Stewart,

On behalf of Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), I am writing to express our strong support for the joint state operating budget appropriation request, which will allow Junior Achievement (JA) to expand its reach and deepen its impact on students across our region. As an annual supporter of JA Finance Park in Newark and a proud advocate for Junior Achievement, we recognize the critical role that JA plays in preparing the next generation for success in both education and the workforce.

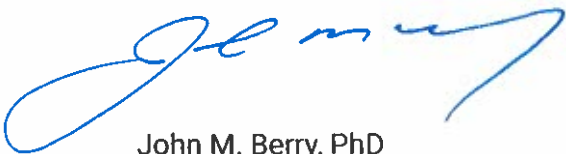
We urge the inclusion of an amendment to HB 96 that would provide \$2.75 million per fiscal year to Junior Achievement areas in Ohio. This funding is essential to enhancing JA's programs across all 88 counties, enabling more students to access the vital resources that foster career readiness and financial literacy. By investing in JA, we are not only supporting individual students but also building a stronger foundation for our state's workforce and economy.

At COTC, our mission is to empower lives through accessible education, transforming students and communities while advancing workforce readiness. JA Finance Park aligns seamlessly with this mission by providing middle and high school students with real-world financial literacy and career exploration experiences. These hands-on learning opportunities help bridge the gap between education and industry, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and decision-making abilities they need to thrive in an evolving job market.

The requested budget appropriation will provide crucial resources to expand JA's programming, making it accessible to even more students, schools, and communities in our region. This investment will strengthen Ohio's future workforce by fostering financial responsibility and career preparedness at an early age.

As a driving force in technical education and workforce development, COTC values the opportunity to collaborate with Junior Achievement to provide meaningful educational experiences that shape the next generation of professionals. We fully support this funding request and encourage its approval to ensure JA can continue its essential work in preparing students for lifelong success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John M. Berry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John M. Berry, PhD
President