



NEWS

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Washington High Schools Receive \$100,000 to go Beyond the 12

Junior Achievement of Washington and The Allstate Foundation launch a new financial education program to help Washington students.

SEATTLE, April 24, 2017 – Connecting high school students with personal financial education and college scholarships just got a little easier in Washington with a \$100,000 donation.

Junior Achievement of Washington and The Allstate Foundation have teamed up to launch a new financial education program, [Beyond the 12](#), to help bring financial literacy to classrooms across Washington, while also giving high school students the chance to earn scholarships and offering high schools some much-needed financial relief.

According to the Council for Economic Education (CEE), more than 1 in 6 students in the United States don't reach the baseline level of proficiency in financial literacy, and fewer than 20 percent of teachers report feeling confident to teach personal finance.

To help connect students with critical life skills, Junior Achievement of Washington has been assisting as many schools as possible with financial education curriculum and finding community volunteers to teach them, said David Moore, CEO and President of Junior Achievement of Washington. And now, with help from The Allstate Foundation, we can reach even more Washington youth.

"Beyond the 12 is a new way to raise awareness for the need for financial literacy in Washington high schools, help students pay for college and help provide financial support for our teachers, so they can bring financial education into the classroom," Moore said. "Empowering our youth through financial literacy is so important for their future. We owe it to these students, our schools and our communities to find a solution so that together, we can build future leaders today."

Through both online and social media efforts, [Beyond the 12](#) is designed to connect more students with personal financial education, offer \$10,000 in scholarships annually and donate more than \$20,000 to high schools across the state.

And as Financial Literacy Month draws to a close, Beyond the 12 is meant to keep the conversation going beyond April.

According to Moore, we shouldn't focus on financial literacy just one month out of the year. Ensuring Washington students have financial skills necessary to thrive in today's fast-paced world is critically important; especially when you consider:

- Nearly 1 in 4 (22 percent) Washington students will not graduate from high school¹.
- For those who do go beyond the 12th grade, more than 55 percent won't graduate from a Washington college on time (in four years)².
- The average Washington college borrower leaves school with more than \$24,000 debt³.
- More than half of millennials say they are living paycheck to paycheck and unable to save for the future⁴.

Having access to financial education helps put Washington youth on a long-term path for success. According to the Council for Economic Education (CEE), students from states where a financial education course was required were more likely to display positive financial behaviors:

- They are more likely to save
- More likely pay off credit cards in full each month
- Less likely to be compulsive buyers
- They are more likely to take reasonable financial risk

State financial education requirements also have a meaningful impact on students' financial condition later in life, and students from states with required financial education courses have higher credit scores, and a lower probability of delinquency as young adults, according to the CEE.

"When you connect with a young person and show them it's possible to reach for the stars, it's a life-changing experience. I am proud to help students in my community succeed beyond high school, so that they can one day achieve their dreams," said Mark Testa, Allstate Field Vice President and Junior Achievement volunteer. "Being able to give back and volunteer in local classrooms is an incredible feeling and part of what Allstate is all about – because when we come together, we truly are a force for good in our communities."

How does Beyond the 12 work?

Washington residents can nominate Washington high schools to receive a \$10,000 donation at the [Beyond the 12 website](#), as well as apply for monthly \$1,000 donations between April – June 2017. High school students can also apply for scholarships, take a financial education quiz and learn more about personal finance.

Donations to high schools work in the following ways:

- Washington high schools have the chance to receive more than \$20,000 in donations from Junior Achievement and The Allstate Foundation, simply by helping us share Junior Achievement of Washington's Beyond the 12 financial education program through social media.
- Junior Achievement has also created \$10,000 in scholarships for Washington high school seniors to help them pay for college.
- In addition, the high school with the winning scholarship applicant will also receive a \$10,000 donation to help with Junior Achievement financial literacy school programs.

Go to [Beyond the 12](#) for complete details and official rules.

1. [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's Graduation and Dropout Statistics Annual Report - April 2015](#)
2. [The Chronicle of High Education's College Completion Report for Washington](#)
3. The Institute of College Access and Success 2015 Report
4. [Council for Economic Education's 2016 Survey of the States](#)

About Junior Achievement of Washington (JA):

Guided by the basic beliefs of integrity, respect and excellence, JA's purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JA fulfills its purpose via educational programs that focus on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness. Driven by the passionate power of its volunteer citizens, JA programs are taught by community and business mentors - individuals committed to the success and healthy development of young people. Long established as a key component of its successful program dynamic, JA recognizes the positive impact of mentorship and its power to build pathways to sustainable, productive futures for young people. For more information visit www.jawashington.org.

About The Allstate Foundation

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL). Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations across the country, The Allstate Foundation brings the relationships, reputation and resources of Allstate to support innovative and lasting solutions that enhance people's well-being and prosperity. With a focus on building financial independence for domestic violence survivors, empowering youth and celebrating the charitable community involvement of Allstate agency owners and employees, The Allstate Foundation works to bring out the good in people's lives. For more information, visit www.AllstateFoundation.org.

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