

# Junior Achievement's Free New App Helps Young People "Build Their Futures"

The app is available for free download on mobile phones and tablets from Apple App and Google Play stores

The *JA Build Your Future*™ app helps teens, their parents and teachers break down the cost of achieving education and career goals into real, usable numbers.

*JA Build Your Future*, launched by Junior Achievement, is designed to help teens explore potential future income from a desired career and assess the cost of college to help them make informed decisions about their futures.



*JA Build Your Future* allows teens to explore more than 100 potential careers; discover the level of education required—from a high school education to a doctorate; learn about potential income expected from that career, and then calculate the cost of education— even factoring the cost of attending in-state, out-of-state public and private universities. The app user can also research professions that require specific certifications or two-year degrees.

Teens can then adjust the level of money they and their parents may contribute; combine student loans they may need to secure, and adjust for any awarded scholarship/grants.

At the end of the exercise, teens are given a Return on Investment (ROI) score between 1 and 5.

A score of 1 suggests it will be difficult to pay off the debt accrued based on future income; 5 indicates they should have no problem paying off debt with estimated future income.

*JA Build Your Future* was developed using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), College Board Earn Your Future financial literacy curriculum and drew upon JA's nearly 100 years of experience in developing educational experiences in work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. It is the first App of its kind for JA.

Every future begins with a plan, and *JA Build Your Future* will help teens and their families create a roadmap for success that will take them from choosing a career to calculating the cost of achieving it.

Junior Achievement of Central South Carolina

<http://centralsc.ja.org> / 803-252-1974

