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CONTACT:

Robin Schwartz
(248) 508-5985

robinschwartzpr@gmail.com

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN HELPS SCHOOLS MEET NEW FINANCIAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

- *New State of Michigan requirement takes effect for 2023-2024 school year*
- *Three JA programs meet the state's criteria for financial literacy education*

DETROIT, Mich. (May 17, 2023) – In response to the new requirement that high school students in Michigan must take a half-credit personal finance course before graduation, Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan (JASEM) is stepping up to help schools meet this mandate using the resources of its national office and experience supporting other states that have passed similar legislation.

The law, signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, will take effect for the 2023-2024 school year. Three JA programs meet the requirements outlined by the Michigan Department of Education and are available to schools statewide, including:

- **JA Finance Park Advanced**, a teacher-led classroom curriculum that culminates with a visit to JA Finance Park, where students put into practice what they've learned by developing a personal budget. An advanced curriculum and simulation give high school students a more personal focus.
- **JA Personal Finance**, a course where students experience the interrelationship between today's financial decisions and future financial freedom. They learn about money-management strategies, including earning, employment and income, budgeting, savings, credit and debt, consumer protection, smart shopping, risk management, investing, credit card usage, debt management, and net worth.
- **JA Financial Literacy**, a one-semester, teacher-led course that equips high school students with foundational personal finance skills. These skills include how to earn and save money; manage money by being a wise consumer and creating and using a budget; managing bank accounts, investments, and credit; assessing risks and use insurance; and addressing financial problems like identity theft and debt

“Our goal is to provide these programs to any school system in need of a relevant, hands-on and practical solution to the new financial education requirement,” said Jason Lee, president and CEO of Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan. “We realize the legislation is an unfunded mandate and districts will be identifying ways to achieve this goal in a fiscally

responsible manner. We are very confident the resources provide by Junior Achievement will be among the most cost-effective options available for our education partners.”

JA’s financial education program costs for the 2023-2024 school year are \$1,650 per classroom of approximately 25-35 students. Costs include program resources and teacher/volunteer facilitation training. In addition to curriculum resources for K-12 educators, JASEM can activate corporate and community volunteers to engage students around these important subjects while sharing insights into career pathways if desired.

“JA’s mission is to inspire and prepare young people for future success in a global economy. As a nonprofit organization we work diligently to determine ways to offer programs at minimal cost to our program partners,” Lee added. “Through collaboration with mutual business partners, foundations, and school systems we are confident that we can determine a collective solution to support the financial literacy education of high school students in our region.”

To learn more or talk with a JA representative about available curriculum options, visit jamichigan.org.

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About Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan

Founded nationally in 1919 and locally in 1949, Junior Achievement is the world’s largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed. JA offers a wide variety of proven programs that promote financial capability, work and career readiness, and business ownership. Classroom teachers and JA volunteers not only deliver JA lessons but share their experiences and serve as role models helping to positively impact young people’s perceptions about the importance of education and critical life skills.

Dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 and young adults, ages 18-25, about financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship, JASEM serves youth throughout the 10-county region known as Southeastern Michigan which includes: Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. For more information, visit jamichigan.org.