

**JAG** teams educators and employers to provide selected secondary career and technical education students with academic and workplace skills. These efforts will lead them to a successful career and/or further education and training upon completion of high school.

**Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates** is affiliated with the national organization, **Jobs for America's Graduates**. To keep this affiliation, states must adopt model program components and performance standards.

### **JAG performance standards**

**Graduation rate:** Ninety percent of all JAG participants must graduate within one year of their high school graduation date.

**Positive outcome:** Upon graduation, eight percent of all program participants must be engaged in work, postsecondary education or training, military service, or a combination of the above.

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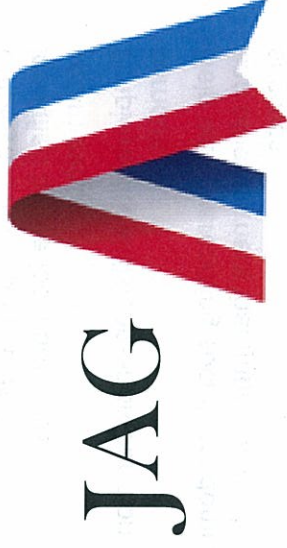
Website: <http://ace.arkansas.gov/>

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William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.  
*Director*

**The mission of Arkansas Department of Career Education is to provide leadership and contribute resources to serve the diverse and changing career and educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities.**



# Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates

**JAG** assists students who need extra help to successfully graduate from high school and move into meaningful employment, postsecondary education, and/or the military.

## JAG Program Elements

- ▷ Employment competencies as identified by the local business community
- ▷ Employability skills/career preparation curriculum
- ▷ Help with overcoming social, academic, and other barriers that impact school success
- ▷ Ongoing tracking, research, and reporting of outcomes
- ▷ Intensive job development with JAG specialists
- ▷ A full twelve months of follow-up and support on the job after leaving high school
- ▷ Accountability of each specialty from JAG participants
- ▷ Integrated reading, math, service learning, and Internet activities in competencies

## Model Components

- ▷ Oversight Board
- ▷ Program Management and Staff
- ▷ Student Selection
- ▷ Student Load
- ▷ Career Association
- ▷ Competency Attainment
- ▷ Employer Marketing and Job Development
- ▷ Follow-up Services
- ▷ National Database Participation

## Model Applications

- ▷ School-to-Career for JAG seniors
- ▷ Dropout prevention (multi-year, 11th and 12th grades)
- ▷ Dropout Recovery

## CTSO Membership

JAG encourages students to become members of career and technical student organizations at their schools. These organizations allow students to show what they have learned through competitions at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Many of the competitive events promote development of leadership, communications, and teamwork skills. Arkansas is affiliated with several national career and technical student organizations:

- (an association of marketing students)  
**DECA**
- (an association of agriculture students)  
**FFA**
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America  
**FCCLA**
- Future Business Leaders of America/  
Phi Beta Lambda  
**FBLA/PPBL**
- Health Occupations Students of America  
**HOSA**
- SkillsUSA (formerly VICA)**  
(an association of trade and industrial education students)

**Arkansas** has embraced the National JAG model in recent years and has come to the forefront of the national JAG network. The following information is specific to Arkansas:

- ▷ Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates was established in 1996.
- ▷ The first Arkansas pilot JAG program was implemented in the 2000-2001 school year in three Arkansas school districts:
  - ◇ Bald Knob
  - ◇ Batesville
  - ◇ Springdale

## Arkansas currently operates 75 JAG programs:

- ▷ 48 traditional high-school-based sites, grades 11-12
- ▷ 25 Alternative Learning Environment sites (ALE) grades 7-12
  - ◇ Out-of-School / Dropout Recovery
  - ◇ School for the Blind
- ▷ Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), Hot Springs, grades 11-12 and Adults

**NOTE:** Arkansas is the only state to serve the blind population.

