

LEARN ABOUT JMG



WHAT IS JMG?

JMG is an independent, statewide 501(c)(3) that partners with public education and private businesses to offer results-driven solutions to ensure all Maine students graduate, attain post-secondary credentials and pursue meaningful careers. JMG serves more than 10,000 students annually through 143 programs throughout the state. For 24 consecutive years, it has been recognized by its national affiliate, Jobs for America's Graduates, as the best school-to-career program in the U.S. for consistently exceeding national standards.

WHO ARE JMG STUDENTS?

Initially for high school students, JMG now works with Maine students as early as the sixth grade all the way through post-secondary education and careers. Its core programs are dedicated to providing opportunity to students struggling with life and learning hurdles, including academic, social, behavioral, and economic challenges.

WHAT DOES JMG DO FOR ITS STUDENTS?

JMG serves over 10,000 students a year. In its 25-year history, JMG has provided more than 50,000 students with the skills and motivation they need to succeed. Through JMG programs, high-school, middle-school, and college students discover their individual talents, develop skills, and seize opportunities to achieve their personal potential. Mentoring plays a critical role in the success of JMG and the success of the students. The programs provide for plenty of one-on-one time between students and the specialists who teach them. JMG also offers a venue for students to interact with employers and community-based organizations.

WHAT PROGRAMS DOES JMG DELIVER?

JMG has designed and implemented several programs that create school-to-life pathways starting as early as the sixth grade and ending in successful post-graduate transitions to higher education and careers. JMG's core programs include:

JMG Middle School and High School Programs

The middle school core program helps students develop communication, team-building, leadership, and problem-solving skills through project based learning and adventure-based activities. The high school core program focuses on career attainment and growth, leadership, and personal skills. Both include a hands-on community service component, teaching students about the importance of giving back.

Each class is taught by an on-site JMG Specialist. Classes are kept small, and students receive lots of one-on-one academic assistance and guidance. Recognizing that every individual is different, Specialists are committed to meeting students where they are, honoring and respecting individual learning styles and unique needs. The relationships Specialists build with students is equally important as the coursework. Knowing they have an advocate in their corner is often just what a student needs to spark the flames of self-confidence, leadership, and success. Specialists continue to provide support and guidance to core students during their first year after completing middle school and high school.

JMG College Success Program starts in high school and continues through college. In partnership with Maine colleges and the business community, the program has been designed based on JMG's extensive experience helping students and the latest research from college bridging and retention programs nationwide. Eligible students include those who were part of a JMG program in middle or high school, youth who are or have been in foster care, and students enrolled in college who received their HiSET within the last five years. In the years leading up to college, the program helps students prepare through academic support, campus tours, application assistance, and more. In college, a College Success Specialist provides students with individualized services including academic, social, and financial support. JMG's College Success Specialists are currently on ten Maine campuses and interact with every JMG high school program.

Additional Initiatives

JMG offers grade-wide career preparatory and financial literacy courses in select public schools. It also offers assistance to Maine students outside of school. Students pursuing their HiSET can receive support through JMG's Portland-based LearningWorks program.

To help foster youth transition to independence, JMG began offering the Opportunity Passport™ in 2004. In addition to providing financial literacy training to foster youth, the program establishes a matched savings account of up to \$1,000 a year to be put toward assets essential to independence, including educational costs, housing, and transportation. More than 600 youth have saved and received matching funds in excess of \$1.6 million since the program was launched.

HOW DOES JMG BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY?

JMG increases high school and college retention and prepares students for successful careers after graduation by helping them overcome academic, financial, and social barriers. Through year-round community service involvement, JMG empowers Maine youth and models Maine's next generation of young leaders, providing them with a toolbox of skills, knowledge, and best practices they can use throughout their lives to achieve self-sufficiency, pursue their aspirations and attain success. Each JMG student leaves the classroom with pride, direction, and purpose, knowing what they want out of life and how they are going to achieve it.

JMG is governed by a board of directors which consists of business and education leaders. JMG is funded by a variety of sources, including the state of Maine, our school partners, private corporations, community foundations, and individual contributions.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

For 24 consecutive years, JMG has been recognized as the Best in the Nation because its outcomes exceed national standards for programs working with disadvantaged youth.

	Maine	JMG
Four-year high school graduation rate	87%	93%
Senior high school graduation rate	87%	98%
Post-secondary enrollment	62%	58%

CONNECT WITH JMG

If you have questions about JMG or would like to request more information, call 207-620-7180 or visit www.jmg.org.