

JA Teens & Careers Survey

2018 Executive Summary



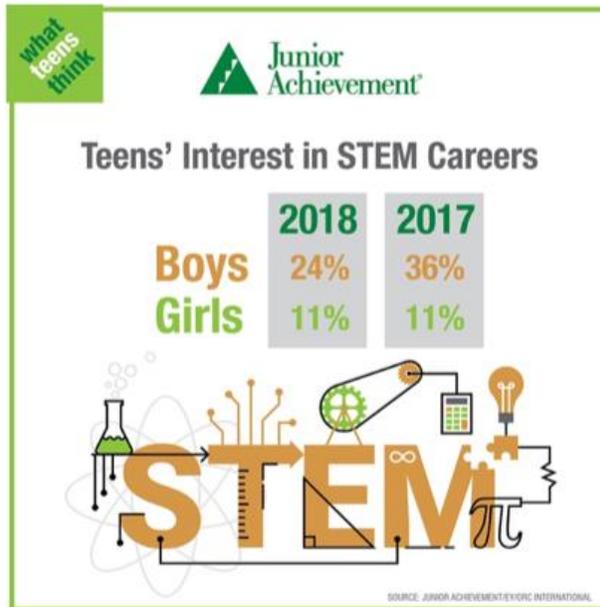
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Introduction

Junior Achievement is pleased to provide the summary of the 2018 Teens and Careers Survey with the support of EY. The survey of 1,000 teens between the ages of 13 and 17, was conducted by Opinion Research International CARAVAN between February 27 and March 6, 2018. The goals of this poll included better understanding teens' interests in career paths, the attraction from influencers towards specific industries, and accessibility to work-readiness and financial-preparedness courses.

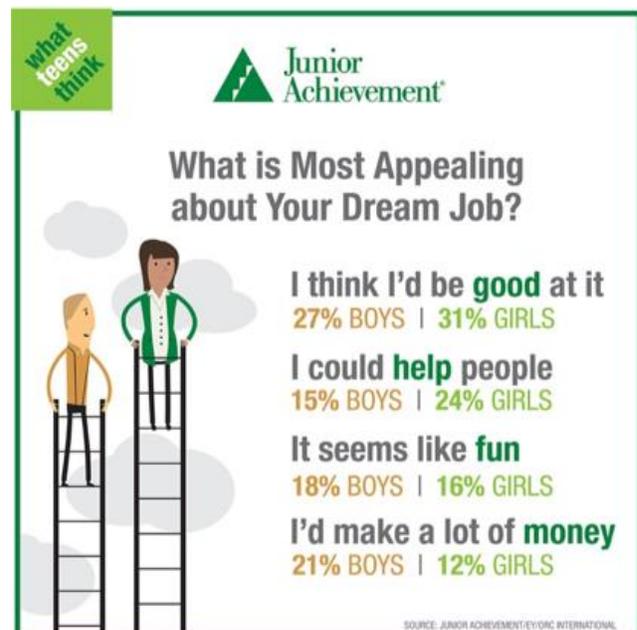
Decreasing Popularity of STEM Amongst Teens



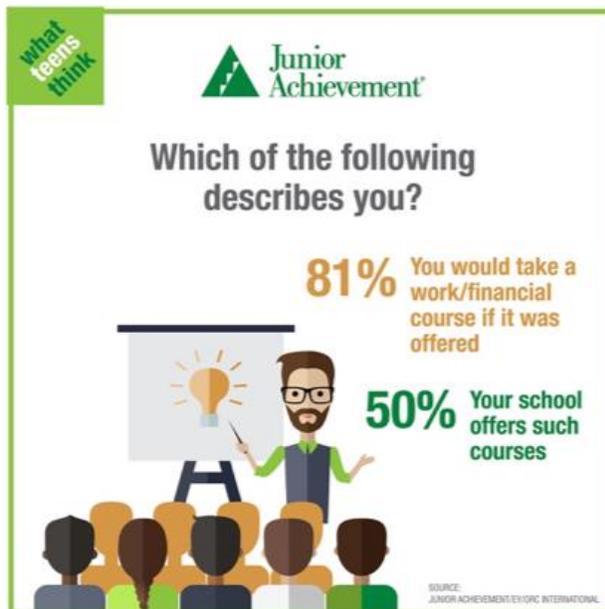
In the 2018 survey, nearly a quarter (24%) of boys reported wanting a career in STEM, which is down 12 percentage points from 2017. However, interest in STEM amongst teenage girls remained unchanged year-over-year. Boys and girls shared a commonality as their desire for careers in the arts declined from 18 percent to 13 percent. Despite the increased discussion of STEM careers, high school age teens' career ambitions have shifted further away from careers in STEM.

Perceived Ability to Do a Job Well Drives Career Decisions

Girl's interest in medical and dental fields saw an increase from 15 percent to 19 percent, as they are far more likely to choose this path. Twenty-four percent of girls revealed that their interest in the medical/dental field is based on their understanding that they could help people, while only 15 percent of boys chose careers based on this factor. The largest percentage of boys (27%) found they are attracted to certain careers based on their ability to be good at them, most girls (31%) felt the same way. Along with medical and dental careers, teens showed a popular interest with professions in public service.



Future Planning Education in Demand



Teens reported an increase in their expectations of taking out a student loan from 33 percent to 45 percent. In 2017, more than half (52%) of teens were planning on changing their career plans based on the economy, while in 2018, only 40 percent planned on straying from their professional path. Nearly a quarter (22%) of teens planned to get a job and go to school at the same time in 2018, a slight decrease from 30 percent in 2017. These findings may have been impacted by the decrease in teens who have taken a financial readiness class, which declined from 33 percent to 28 percent. More than 8 out of ten

(81%) of teens would be willing to take a work/financial readiness class if it was offered to them, yet only 50 percent of teens stated their school offers such a course. The skills teens feel would be most useful include learning how to prepare for their dream jobs (including technology) and relationship building.

Methodology

This report presents the findings of ORC International's Youth CARAVAN survey conducted among a sample of 1,000 13-17-year olds. This survey was live from February 27 to March 6, 2018. Respondents for this survey are selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response option.