

Money Path Volunteer Lesson Guide for the Money Coach Program

Welcome to Money Path!

Money Path is a personalized, technology-based experience. Money Path helps students explore and compare different college and career paths, calculate the related education costs, and learn how to budget and save for long-term goals while reinforcing personal finance concepts for increased confidence and readiness.

This lesson guide will help you facilitate Money Path using the guided facilitation video. The video is divided into sections. You will play each section and pause for discussion and independent work time where indicated. This guide provides the timing, directions, and discussion questions for the lesson.



[Watch an Intro to Money Path](#)

Tips

- Students may progress through the app faster than the guided video; encourage them to come back and re-engage at the beginning of each video section.
- Utilize the built-in educational content in the app (green links) to guide students in deeper understanding of each concept and decision.
- If a student can't find their desired career choice, they can add custom careers, majors and salaries.
 - Students can search for this information on sites such as Glassdoor, Zip Recruiter, and Pay Scale.
- When planning their budgets, students may want to search on sites like Zillow for rent and housing costs to more accurately forecast their expenses.
- The comparison feature of Money Path is a powerful tool for students, encourage them to change variables around to see the future impact.

Personal notes /
Stories to share:

30 min Condensed Version

Overview

This lesson will help students create their own personalized career & financial plan - this 30 minute lesson is designed to use the lesson guide below in tandem with an 18 min. guided facilitation video. Students create their own plan during the video. Remaining time is spent on questions and reflection.

Preparation for lesson:

- Create your own Money Path account at MoneyPathApp.org using your designated class code
- Review [this guided facilitation video](#) & lesson guide below. Prepare to lead class discussion

Day of:

- Open this guided facilitation video, test playback, ensure all students have computers ready
- This is a condensed lesson structure below - be sure they complete & save at least one finished path!
- During independent work time, walk around the room to answer questions one-on-one. Bring any relevant questions back to the larger group. Emphasize the continued use of this program with family.

Write your Unique Class Code Here: _____

Lesson Kickoff - Intro & Account Set-up

2 min.

Play Video: 00:00 - 2:05

Open by explaining the lesson objective:

Money Path will help you create a personalized financial plan based on your future academic and career goals. You can build and compare different plans to see how they impact your goals. We will watch a video to help guide you through Money Path

Provide class code to students to set-up their individual accounts and recommend they use personal emails for access after graduation.

Choosing your Career Pathway

3 min.

Play video 2:05 to 5:16

This section walks through choosing a broad career pathway and specific major/career

Points of Emphasis

- If students can't find their preferred career or want to adjust the starting salary? Click the "Add Career" or "Add Major" button

Ask:

- Did you find a career that interests you?
- What additional information is Money Path showing around your chosen career?

Choosing & Paying for your Education

5 min.

Play Video 5:17 - 9:36

This section explores the paying for education screens, including financial aid, scholarships, gifts and employment during college. For those who chose non-college pathways, this is a time to look at the local job market, job prerequisites, and skills needed.

Points of Emphasis

- The differences of in-state vs out-state tuition, private vs public, and bachelors vs associates
- The importance of FAFSA - bring that home to families
- Scholarships and working during college and its impact on overall student loan debt

Ask

- If you were looking to reduce your overall student loan amount, what are things you would change?
- Has this changed your thoughts on your chosen career - is there any further research you need to do?

Future Budget, Goal Timeline & Retirement

5 min total

Play Video 9:37 - 13:18

Students create a monthly budget, set long-term savings goals, and view their retirement savings

Points of emphasis

- Budgeting concept:
Income = Expenses + Savings
- Importance of an emergency fund
- Employer matching contributions

Ask

- What are your observations about how much it costs to live independently?
- What goals are you saving up for? How do these goals inform your post-high school plans?
- How do you feel about your retirement savings after 40 years? Where does it grow the fastest?

Saving, Revising Paths, and Comparisons

10 min.

Play Video 13:18 - 17:47

Students are guided through how to save their path, and encouraged to revisit Money Path often. Ensure that every student has at least one path saved before going into the comparisons. The final 4 minutes of the video demonstrate how Money Path can impact future decisions - comparison topics include: Career Path, College, and Lifestyle.

Points of Emphasis

- Students know which variables they can change to adjust their path to meet their goals
- Each student has at least one completed path

Worktime

Spend time walking around the room engaging with students one-on-one, take questions and bring any relevant ones up to the larger group. If students are finished with their first saved path, encourage them to change certain variables. Some examples of potential comparisons might be:

- Switch Career Path - explore different pathways (workforce, apprenticeship, military, or college)
- Job Market Considerations - salary differences, cost of living, values etc
- College Expenses - what variables can be changed to lesson student loan debt?
- Budgeting - needs vs wants

Wrapping Up & Next Steps

5 min **Play video: 17:48 to 18:26**

Ask

- What are your takeaways from Money Path?
- What will you change going forward knowing your future financial picture?
- What is your backup plan? Have you considered a different pathway?
- Who else will you share this with?

Points of Emphasis

- If time allows, have students complete the survey within the app (top right corner menu)
- Remind students that their accounts never expire. Encourage them to update their paths as they narrow their choices and get more real-world data to enter
- Bring the conversation home! Encourage students to share their paths with family, counselors, or other influential people in their lives. See the Family Engagement Resource if you need language to send home.