

Money Path Volunteer Lesson Guide

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:

Lesson Preparation:

1. Create your own Money Path account at MoneyPathApp.org using your designated class code.
2. Watch the [guided facilitation video](#) and build 2-3 paths of your own. Make sure to explore the comparison tool within the application.
3. Review the lesson guide below to prepare to lead in-class discussion.



Day of:

1. Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the start of the lesson.
2. Connect with the educator to review time allotment, technology needs and behavioral expectations.
3. Be ready to follow your students interests, sharing your own career and financial decisions.

Lesson Kickoff - Intro & Account Set-up (5 min total)

Welcome students and explain the 'why' of this lesson: '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 if they match your goals...it doesn't matter what you do for a career, but being confident in your future does!'

Consider the following kickoff questions to spark discussion:

- Tell me about your post-high school planning; where are you at and how are you feeling?
- Have you thought about any long-term goals?

Share that you will be using a video to help guide them through Money Path and that there will be designated stopping points along the way.

Play Video: 00:00 - 2:00

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 (10 min total)

Play Video: 2:00 - 5:12

This section walks through choosing a career pathway (straight to the workforce, apprenticeship, military, or college)

Discussion:

- Did you find a career that interests you? Tell me about the career and what made you choose this career?
- Did any of you notice the % of people employed in your career field, or the % going on to continued education? What might this tell you about this career field?
- What careers are you interested in learning more about and why?

Choosing & Paying for your Education (15 min total)



Play Video 5:12 - 9:32

This section explores the paying for education screens, including financial aid, scholarships, gifts and employment during college. After this segment, let students work independently for 10 minutes and wrap up with discussion:

College Costs

- How do college costs differ based on the type and location of the school you chose? What are the considerations have to make when deciding if college is the right fit?

Funding your Education

- Has anyone applied for scholarships yet? Where did you find scholarship information?
- Have you had a conversation with your families about paying for school? Consider using Money Path to start that conversation! Do you have any questions about the FAFSA and its impact?

Student Loans

- How do you feel about the estimated amount of student loans you may need to borrow?
- What variables can you change to reduce your overall student loan amount?

Future Budget, Goal Timeline & Retirement (15 min total)

Play Video 9:32 - 13:13

Students are shown how to create a monthly budget, goal timeline, and retirement savings plan. After watching the segment, give students 10 minutes to work independently. Share your stories of how you save and budget in your own life, and discuss the following:

Budgeting

- What expense categories did you think to change first? Did you change your savings amount?
- What are your observations about how much it costs to live independently?

Goal Timeline

- What goals are you saving up for? How do these goals inform your post-high school plans?
- How do you feel about your ability to save for your goals? If it seems like a long timeline, what can you do to achieve your goals sooner?

Retirement Savings

- How do you feel about your retirement savings after 40 years? During which years is it growing the fastest - why is that?

Saving & Revisiting Paths (1 min)

Play Video 13:13 - 13:55

Students are guided through how to save their path, and encouraged to revisit Money Path often.

Provide direction if you would like students to save, download, print or submit their path. You may also provide this [**Student Assignment**](#) for additional individual reflection.

Comparing Paths (20 min)



Play Video 13:55 - 18:21

This final portion of the video explores three specific comparison examples that showcase how to use Money Path to make more informed, forward-looking decisions.

The remaining lesson time will be spent building and comparing different potential paths. Following the examples in the video, encourage students to build a minimum of 3 paths, save them, and utilize the comparison tool to see the impact of their various decisions. Below are some suggestions on what to have students compare:

Switch Career Path

Are your students committed to getting a college education? Have they considered exploring an apprenticeship or other path? How does the earning potential compare to a college degree?

Job Market Considerations

What areas of study appeal to your students? Have students select and research three different majors or careers. Students should consider prospective college programs, salary differences, local job markets, and alignment with personal skills and values.

College Expenses

Have students explore alternative routes to getting a degree, such as choosing a less expensive college, staying in-state rather than going farther away or starting at a technical college, then transferring to earn a Bachelor's degree. Whether or not to work during college, or apply for more scholarship funding are good comparisons to make.

Making the Budget Friendly

If a student's initial path required a tight monthly budget, how might they decrease their expenses to better balance needs vs. wants? How could they reach long-term goals faster? Have them build a budget that allows for additional savings.

Student Assignment - If you have additional time, reference this assignment and discuss the reflection questions.

Wrapping Up The Lesson (5 min)

- Ask students what they learned about their post-HS plans. Do they have to make changes to reach their goals? Are they excited or concerned about their post-high school plan?
- Have students complete the evaluation within the app. It's available in the top right corner menu.
- Remind students that their accounts never expire. Encourage them to update their paths as they narrow down their choices and get more real-world data to enter (family income, college acceptance, financial aid awards, etc.)
- Bring the conversation home! Choose language from the **Family Engagement Resource** and encourage students to share their completed paths with family members, counselors, or other influential people in their lives.