

Overview

This guide will show you how to lead a large group of students through a Money Path session. This guide assumes a large group of students are in-person. It involves a guided facilitation video played for the group in sections along with peer-to-peer discussion time. We recommend one educator leading the lesson with several other educators/volunteers walking the room to answer individual questions and drive discussion among students. All should be very familiar with Money Path prior to the event. Each student needs a computer, and will leave with a personalized career & financial plan.

Preparation for lesson:

- Create your own Money Path account at MoneyPathApp.org using your designated class code
- Watch [this](#) guided facilitation video and review the lesson guide below.
- All staff should consider how they made their own career & financial choices, and be ready to share to personalize the lesson for students.
- Consider if you want a deliverable from students - they can save and download a PDF of their finished career & financial plan, or you may assign this [Student Assignment](#)

Day of:

- Lead staff member sets up AV by opening the guided facilitation video, testing playback, prepares to start/stop video
- All staff ensure students have computers ready, get ready to walk around the room to answer questions one-on-one and bring any relevant questions back to the larger group.
- Follow the lesson structure below and be ready to follow your students interests and questions.

Lesson Kickoff - Intro & Account Set-up

Play Video: 0:00 - 1:59

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 if they match your goals. There are no wrong choices! It's all about being confident in your decisions and having a plan for the future.

Ask students, 'Raise your hand if...'

- You are 100% confident in your post high school plans!
- You know if your ideal career choice would support you financially
- You have ever put together a budget or tracked your income and expenses


Ask the whole group and take several answers from each question:

- What is a long term goal you envision for yourself?
- What questions do you have about planning for life after high school?

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.

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

 **Play Video:**
2:00 - 5:11

This section walks through choosing a career. Money Path displays a national average starting salary with each career choice. Students may want to do external research and dive deeper into the specifics of their career choice or explore salary ranges in various regions of the country.

Direct students to turn to their neighbor and ask them to consider the following questions one at a time:

- What types of careers are you thinking about, and why?
- How much have you explored various career paths so far?
- What additional information is Money Path showing around your chosen career?



Teacher Tip

Students can't find their preferred career? Want to adjust the starting salary? Click the "Add a Custom Career" button.

Choosing & Paying for your Education

 **Play Video:**
5:12 - 9:31

This section explores the paying for education screens, including financial aid, scholarships, gifts and employment during college. Even if students are not interested in the college path, it is important for them to understand the process.

If students select a path other than college, Money Path will skip them ahead to the budgeting section. Have them pause and do external research - look for available opportunities in your area, job prerequisites, skills needed, etc.

Pause and ask if there are any questions from the group.

Future Budget, Goal Timeline & Retirement

 **Play Video:**
9:32 - 13:13

Students are shown how to create a monthly budget, goal timeline, and retirement savings plan.

Peer to Peer- turn to your neighbor and reflect on this section.

How are you feeling about your plan so far, your future budget and/or your goals?

Points of Emphasis:

- Budgeting concepts: $\text{Income} = \text{Expenses} + \text{Savings}$
- Importance of an emergency fund and goals
- Employer matching contributions and the importance of starting early!

Ask one or two students to share with the group.



Teacher Tip

In the budget, explain the average young adult (middle column) and the personalized budget amounts (right column/gray numbers)

Saving, Revisiting Paths, and Comparisons

 **Play Video:**
13:14 - 13:54

*College
Comparisons:*
13:55 - 14:43

*Career Path
Comparisons:*
14:44 - 15:59

*Lifestyle
Comparisons:*
16:00 - 17:41

Students are guided on how to save their first path. The remaining four minutes of the video provides comparison examples.

Worktime:

After this section, allow independent work time. Encourage students to build & save a minimum of 3 paths, and compare them - provide direction if you would like students to save, download, print or submit their path(s). Walk around the room engaging with students one-on-one asking and answering questions.

Potential Comparisons:

Ensure students know how changing variables can impact their overall financial picture.

- Switch Career Path - explore different pathways
- Job Market Considerations - salary differences, cost of living, values etc
- College Expenses - what variables can be changed to lessen student loan debt?
- Budgeting - needs vs wants, housing costs, 'other' costs

Questions to ask:

- **Career** - What made you choose that career path? What is the additional info provided telling you about that career choice? Have you considered other pathways?
- **Choosing & Funding College** - Have you had conversations with family around paying for your college? Have you completed FAFSA yet?
- **Budget** - Can you explain why you put X amount in that category? Did you look up a specific house or apartment to get to that number? How much are you saving for goals and retirement each month? What all goes into your entertainment budget? How do these numbers compare to the average young adult?

Wrapping Up and Next Steps

 **Play Video:**
17:42 - 18:21

Lead a quick wrap up discussion, and ensure students know to keep using Money Path at home.

Ask students, 'Raise your hand if...'

- You feel excited with your plan for life after high school
- You learned something about your career choice
- You were surprised by your monthly budget
- If you had to make changes to reach your goals faster in the timeline section

Bring the large group together, ask these questions and be sure to emphasize the following!

- Who else will you share this with? What are your next steps? Encourage students to share their completed paths with family members, counselors, or other influential people in their lives.
- After the lesson you may choose to incorporate this **Student Assignment** which engages students in meaningful reflection on their comparisons.