

Overview:

This lesson is designed to use a guided facilitation video with designated pauses for group discussion and individual work time.

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. Prepare to lead class discussion.
- Consider if you want a deliverable from students - they can download PDFs of their finished career & financial plans, or you may assign this [Student Assignment](#).

Day of:

- Open the [guided facilitation video](#), test playback, ensure all students have computers and internet access.
- During independent work time, walk around the room to answer questions one-on-one. Bring any relevant questions back to the larger group.
- Follow the lesson structure below and be ready to follow your students interests and questions. Share how you made your own career & financial choices to personalize the lesson!

Lesson Kickoff - Intro & Account Set-up

 5 minutes
(Intro & Video)

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.

 **Teacher Tip**


Write the Class Code on the board ahead of time!

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: 0:00 - 1:59**

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.
(Video & 5 min.
independent work)

This section walks through choosing a career pathway - straight to the workforce, apprenticeship, military, or college. Money Path displays a national average starting salary with each career choice.

 **Teacher Tip**


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

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

Discussion:

- Does everyone understand what each of the four broad pathways are?
- Did you find a specific career that interests you? Tell me about what made you choose this career?
- What can you tell me about the skills that influence pay that Money Path provides for your chosen career?

Choosing & Paying for your Education

 15 min.
(Video & 10 min.
independent work)

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. For those who chose non-college pathways, this is a time to do external research. Look for available opportunities in your area, look at job prerequisites, and skills needed.

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

Discussion:


College Costs, Paying for School, Student Loans

- How do college costs differ based on the type and location of the school you chose?
- Have you had a conversation with your families about paying for school?
- Do you have any questions about FAFSA and its impact?
- What variables can you change to reduce your overall student loan amount?

Workforce, Apprenticeship, Military pathways

- What can you find out about the local job market?
- What are the prerequisites for their chosen career? Are there any job shadowing opportunities?
- Has this changed your thoughts on your chosen career - is there any further research you need to do?

Future Budget, Goal Timeline & Retirement

 15 min.
(Video & 10 min.
independent work)

Students create a monthly budget, set long-term savings goals, and view their retirement savings. After watching the segment, give students 10 minutes to work independently. Walk around the room to answer questions one-on-one, and bring any relevant questions up to the larger group. Share your stories of how you save and budget in your own life.

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

Discussion:

Budget

- What are some ways that you could reduce your expenses to balance your budget or save more?
- What are your observations about how much it costs to live independently?
- How might student loan payments affect your budget? If you were to go to college, how could you adjust your college funding plan to reduce your student loan payment?

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?
- Notice which years it's growing the fastest -why is that?

Teacher Tip

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

Saving and Revisiting Paths

 1 min.

Teacher Tip

Ensure that students have saved one entire path (getting to the Summary page) before the class ends.

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

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

Comparing Paths

 20 min.
(Video & 15 min.
independent work)

Teacher Tip

Build at least two paths ahead of time to be familiar with the comparison feature!

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. Have students spend 15 minutes building and comparing different potential paths following the video. Spend time engaging with students one-on-one, suggesting some of the below comparison examples, and bring any relevant questions up to the larger group. When students are wrapping up, encourage small group discussions.

 **Play Video**

College Comparisons: 13:55 - 14:43

Career Path Comparisons: 14:44 - 15:59

Lifestyle Comparisons: 16:00 - 17:41

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? How does their budget, savings goal timeline, and retirement forecast compare if they choose an alternate path?

Career Considerations

What career areas appeal to your students? Have students select and research several different careers and reflect on the skills that influence pay. Students should consider prospective college programs, salary differences, local job markets, and alignment with personal skills and values.

College Expenses

Have students explore ways to lessen college expenses, such as choosing a less expensive college, or in-state vs out-of-state, or transferring from a technical college to a university after 2 years. Whether or not to work during college or apply for scholarship funding are good comparisons to make.

Making the Budget Friendly

Lead a discussion of needs vs wants - how can students decrease their expenses to allow them to reach long term goals faster? How can factors like living situations, entertainment budgets, and lifestyle priorities impact their future?

Small Group Discussion:

Once students have set up and compared paths, have them work in small groups to discuss the following. As you bring them back to the larger group, ask one group at a time to share their thoughts.

- 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?

Wrapping Up the Lesson

 5 min.
(Video & final steps)

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

Final Steps:

- Have students complete the survey within the app.
- 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.)
- After the lesson you may choose to incorporate this **Student Assignment** which engages students in meaningful reflection on their comparisons.
- Bring the conversation home! Choose language from the **Family Engagement Resources** and encourage students to share their completed paths with family members, counselors, or other influential people in their lives.

Notes: