



Three, Two, One, Launch?

Instructors: Don't forget to make an Achievery account for each student! [Make your account for the Achievery in English](#) or [Make your Account for the Achievery in Spanish](#).

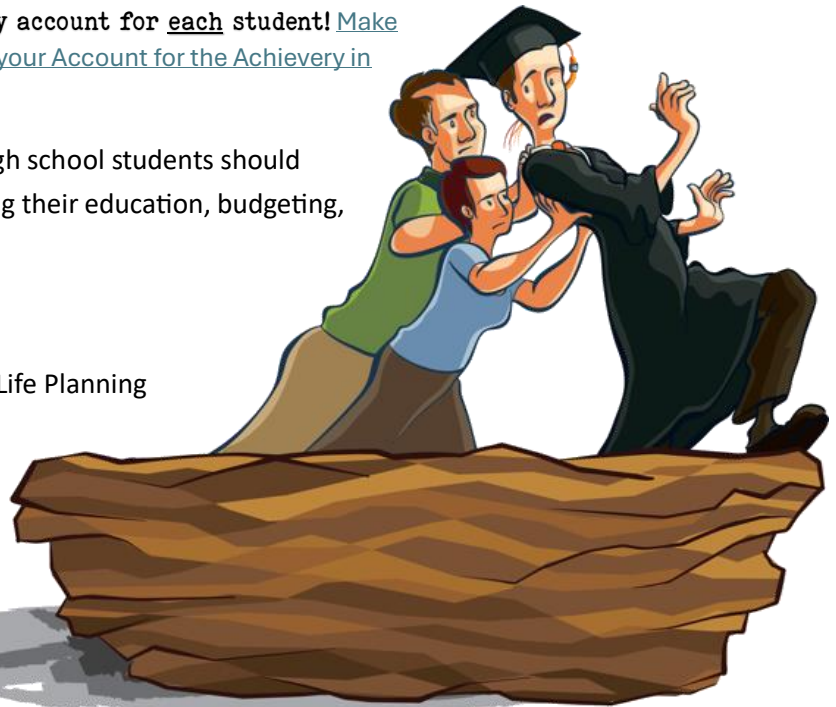
Objective: By the end of this lesson, your high school students should have some familiarity with options for continuing their education, budgeting, and tools for planning their future.

Grade Span: 9-12

Subjects: Continuing Education, Budgets, & Life Planning

Lesson Introduction: In every school, in every district, in every state, students are asked to identify their dream job. The ever popular "what do you want to do when you grow up" fills each discussion with a school

counselor. It's an intimidating question. And it's not one they'll only address once. According to statistics from the US Dept of Labor, the average person changes careers 5-7 times throughout their working life.



Living the Dream!

Begin the discussion with an activity that will get kids talking. Can students guess the price of the world's most extravagant products (\$1000000+)? Have them try it out in [this mind-boggling game](#) from Guess the Price.net. Or get more realistic with the 'cheap' and 'mid-range' variations.

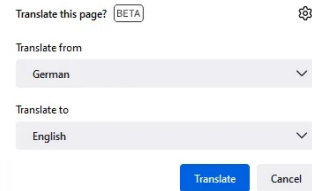
With those prices in mind do students know how much money they'll need to make to live the life they want? Have students play [this game](#) from Arkansas Next to help them figure that out.

Lesson: Sometimes we can get focused on what's happening here and now and forget to think about what lies ahead. There are plenty of resources out there for students to use to explore career interests, to make career decisions, and to find career opportunities. Your goal is to help students start looking ahead and get comfortable using tools like the ones in the [IDRC Student Portal](#).

Work with students to build ideas of what they might want to do and then use tools from the Student Portal and the Achievery to look at some paths they can take to get there.



Teacher Tip: Show students (and their parents) how to translate a web page into their preferred language from the drop-down menu in the upper right corner.



Career Exploration:



My Next Move: My Next Move is an interactive tool for job seekers and students to learn more about their career options. My Next Move has tasks, skills, salary information, and more for over 900 different careers.

Career Girls: Career Girls provides inspirational and educational videos of real women from diverse backgrounds who have made it in their chosen fields — and pair those videos with other useful tools for



girls, as well as for the educators, parents, mentors, and other adults who are guiding them.

Futurescape: One of the more creative ideas for helping students with their future plans, this site takes about a minute for students to go through an out-of-this-world experience. After they are finished, they can click on planets to get more information on their career clusters based on their interests.

JobTest.org: it's not uncommon to see people spending more time researching a five-day vacation than a thirty-year career.



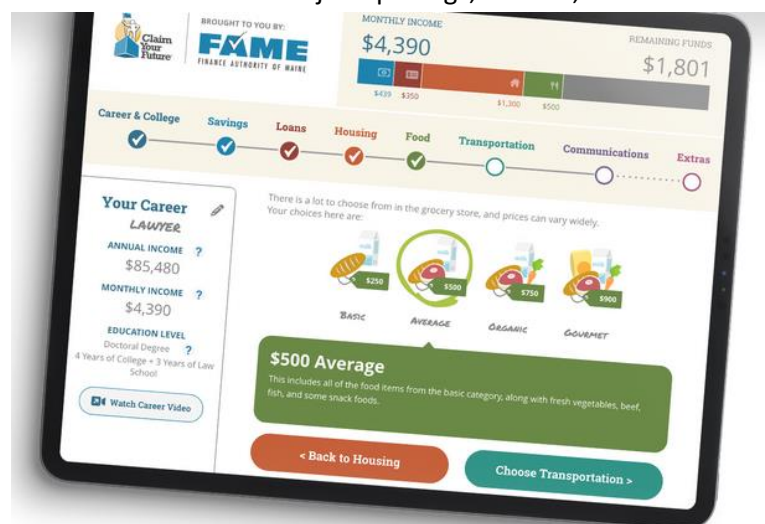
JobTest's process combines proven psychological theories with modern technology, like AI and machine learning, to provide answers. Even better, they use real-time data to find job openings, salaries, and other crucial information.

Life Planning & Living on a Budget

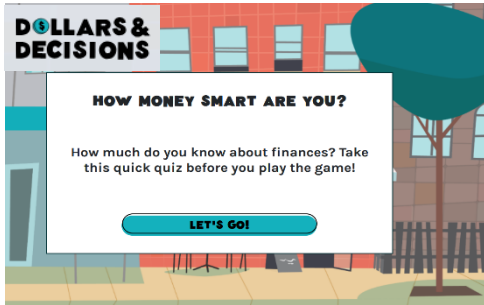
Do they know how to budget? Or what a budget is? Budgeting lays a strong foundation for a secure financial future.

Here's a few online games and simulations from the Student Portal that help high school students test

out their ability to budget.



Claim Your Future: This game can be played online at ClaimYourFuture.org. Students can choose a career or opt to have one randomly assigned. They then can learn about higher education, and navigate through different living expense choices to try to balance their budget. As students make budgeting decisions, Claim Your Future keeps track of how much money they've spent. The goal is for students to complete a monthly budget without "breaking their wallet."



Dollars & Decisions: It's a free "Choose Your Own Adventure"-style interactive course designed to introduce basic financial literacy to students in grades 8-12.

Students take a 10-question quiz to measure their basic financial literacy knowledge before playing. Then, they choose an avatar, a job, and meet their new roommates. The game includes lots of good learning opportunities, like paycheck taxes, fixed vs. variable expenses, etc.

They're asked to do things like:

- Decide on a budget for groceries (a cheaper, or more expensive option).
- Pay their roommates their portion of rent.
- Sign up for direct deposit on their first day of their job

Payback: This financial simulation game can help your teen students better pick out careers and majors based on simulating what kinds of jobs they might find when they graduate, and how much their student loans might be.



They'll be asked to make critical decisions that will have a direct effect on their budgets and finances post-college, such as what type of college they want to attend (i.e., 4-year, 2-year, community, in-state, out-of-state).

Also, they'll decide on more immediate needs, such as whether or not to buy a new laptop for college, or if they should take a low-paying, labor job to help pay the bills.



Keep it going! Now that they're familiar with tools, have students take a closer look at themselves!

Build on this lesson with additional resources, such as:

You've Got Skills: We've all got skills—but sometimes, you need to look at your experiences through a new lens to understand just how many skills you actually have! In this activity, you'll discover your skills and plan to grow new skills in the future.

[Find Your Interests](#): "Do what you love" sounds like brilliant advice...but how do you figure out what you love? To help, we've got 4 steps that will help figure out the things you like, plus activities to help you make goals and a plan to pursue them in your daily life.

[Paths to Building New Skills](#): In this lesson, students research different options for their future—from a four-year college to apprenticeships—to see which path best aligns with their interests and can help them build the skills they need.

[Finding Where Your Interests Intersect](#) into your plans. Have students explore which careers lie at the intersection of their interests. In this lesson, students play DJ, and identify how the things they like and the things they believe in can get mashed up to create new options for their future.

[Facing Challenges](#): How can your passions and interests merge into a future pathway? Follow along with three young people traveling as part of Roadtrip Nation's public TV series.

[How to Follow a Creative Path](#). What kind of mindsets and values can help you pursue a creative path in your life? In this lesson, you'll hear from the award-winning filmmaker and professional climber Jimmy Chin about how he got started, then make a creative project that helps you express the ideas he shares.

