

The Budget Challenge® Financial Literacy and Capability + Investing Program provides lessons and activities to effectively teach all topics, content statements, and expectations for Ohio Model Personal Finance Curriculum for the required high school class. In many cases, Budget Challenge® exceeds the expectation by having students apply it in their patented real-world financial simulation.

The original Ohio Standards document can be found at:

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Financial-Literacy/Financial-Literacy-Standards/FinalFLMCAadoptedNov2019.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US#:~:text=The%20high%20school%20course%20prepares,how%20to%20create%20budgets%20and>



See below for screenshots of pages 23-35 of the Ohio Standards (which address the requirements for High Schools) with examples of how the Budget Challenge® program addresses each.

Ohio Requirement 1

Financial Literacy Standards: High School

TOPIC: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISION MAKING

Content Statement
1. Financial responsibility entails being accountable for managing money to satisfy one's current and future economic choices.

CONTENT ELABORATION
Financially responsible individuals make thoughtful choices based on their own goals and acknowledge they are personally responsible for their financial choices. Managing money is the process of budgeting, saving, investing and spending. Individual opportunities and choices about when, where and how much to work affect lifestyle decisions and financial stability.

EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING
Identify responsible ways for managing money for short- and long-term goals.
Describe actions that are both responsible and irresponsible uses of money.

In the Simulation

In the Budget Challenge® Simulation, students manage a typical household budget in a real-world real world scenario with competitive scoring and actionable feedback. Students evaluate choices within each of eleven budget categories including:

- Job
- Banking
- Rent
- Auto Loan
- Auto Insurance
- Cable
- Cell Phone
- Credit Card
- Utilities
- Renter's Insurance
- Student Loan

Making Vendor Selections
Watch the Getting Started Video Series below. If you would like to learn more in depth about the simulation, read Chapter 2 - Playing Budget Challenge.

Get Ready for Launch #1
Vendor Selections #2
Filling Out Your CFB #3

Download the CFB Tool - the Better Way to Budget®
Download the CFB Tool for Excel or add a copy of the Google Sheets version to your Google Drive. Watch Video #3 and use the Vendor Selections worksheet below to fill out your CFB.

[Excel download](#) [Google Sheets download](#)

0 Days, 0 Hours and 0 Minutes left to make selections.
Note: Vendor Selections are complete when all tabs are green.

Don't have Microsoft Office or a Google Account?
Download and install Apache OpenOffice for free to use the CFB tool spreadsheet.

Vendor Selections View Info Panel [View Vendor Selections Worksheet](#)

Banking | Rent | Auto Loan | Auto Ins | Cable | Cell Phone | Credit Card | Utilities | Renter's Ins | Student Loan

Employer: Progressing Widget Engineering and Design
Your new career is with Progress Widget Engineering and Design in a Junior Widget Analyst. You will be working on the frontlines of widget design and have exposure to the latest widget prototypes and products.
Your salary will be an annual rate of \$52,500.00, payable in biweekly installments of \$2,095.00, less standard deductions (Federal Withholding, Social Security, Medicare, State taxes, and HealthCare). Seven days after the start of the simulation, your first paycheck will be issued for the full biweekly amount.
During your hire orientation, you enrolled in the employer's high deductible insurance plan and the premiums are automatically deducted from each paycheck. Your deductible is \$1,000.
As an employee of Progress Widget Engineering and Design, you are encouraged to participate in the 401(k) savings program. To do this, you will need to enroll in the plan below AND select a contribution percentage. The employer will match your contribution at the specified level. Reach 1% for the first portion (Up to Match Percent) of your contribution. The 401(k) contribution percentage can be changed each pay period and cannot exceed

As they prepare for the start of the simulation, students are exposed to a multitude of financial concepts and terms (such as premium, deductible, interest rate, various types of fees, and a variety of bill frequencies). The choices within each budget category highlight opportunity costs.

Students enter the relevant financial information into the Cash Flow Budget Tool (CFB) . This tool is used throughout the simulation to reconcile actual payments, fees incurred, and any additional costs from unexpected events.

Cash Flow Budgeting Tool - the Better Way to Budget®

2024-2025

Watch Tutorial Video
Filling Out Your CFB #3

1. **Review** Update the orange cell with the date your simulation starts.
2. **Deposit** Enter starting checking account balances on all BB's and make adjustments based on the date funds are available.
3. **Expense** Enter payments for expected payments to vendors to fill on their expected transaction date.
4. **Goal** Plan to achieve goals and set trophies and make notes to yourself to help maintain a stable and good habit.
5. **Balance** If your balance is "in the red" you may want to make adjustments to your payment dates (possibly grace periods) or vendor selections.
6. **Withdraw** Enter bank fees and transfers to savings (and expected bank fees and transfers to savings) on their expected transaction date.

Simulation Date	Deposits	Withdrawals, Fees and Transfers	Apartment Rent	Auto Loan BB	Auto Ins BB	Cable BB	Cell Phone BB	Credit Card BB	Utilities BB	Renter's Ins BB	Student Loan BB	Total Withdrawals	Total Deposits	Checking Acct Balance	Simulation Day Trophy Dividends	Notes / Reminders / To Do's
3/14/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	1. Credit Health Trophy Awarded - Don't lose it!	
3/15/2025		Starting Balance										\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/16/2025		Enter your checking account starting balance										\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/17/2025		Make your Student Home Vendor Selections for amount										\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/18/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/19/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/20/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/21/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/22/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/23/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/24/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/25/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		Emergency Fund Goal
3/26/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/27/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/28/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/29/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/30/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
3/31/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
4/1/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		
4/2/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		Perfect Pay Goal 1
4/3/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00		

Beyond paying bills, students are challenged to earn nine different trophies which balance short-term and long-term goals. Six goals are for regular financial management and three are specific to investing. The trophies are:

- Emergency Fund
- Perfect Pay
- Credit Card Management
- Retirement Savings
- Credit Health
- Debt Reduction
- Strategic Investor
- Fully Invested
- Low-cost Investor / Fee Management

Once the simulation begins, students are expected to read Dashboard Alerts regarding bill notifications and unexpected events. They will need to pay bills, manage their checking account, manage their credit, pay down debt, and adjust their net pay by modifying their 401(k) contribution to deal with any unexpected events. Students are not explicitly told what to do; they are immersed in a financial scenario where they are expected to handle the faux money and experience the consequences of their actions in the system.

[In the Textbook](#)

Chapter 1: Keys to Financial Success

- Successful Financial Management
- Foundation Principles
- Managing Risk
- Budgeting Basics — Creating a Plan

Chapter 2: Playing Budget Challenge

Chapter 8: Purchasing and Consumer Protection

Chapter 11: Insurance and Managing Risk: Motor Vehicle and Property

Chapter 12: Insurance and Managing Risk: Health, Life, and Disability

Ohio Requirement 2

Content Statement
2. Financial responsibility involves lifelong decision-making strategies which include consideration of alternatives and consequences.

CONTENT ELABORATION
 Over a lifetime, people make many financial decisions about their education, jobs and personal life lives that affect their income.
 Financial goals should be developed and evaluated regularly. When making financial decisions, individuals should reflect upon alternatives and determine if the consequences will be positive or negative for everyone involved in the decision.

EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING
 List financial decisions made at different stages of life and factors that will affect those decisions.
 Explain how education and career decisions affect incomes and job opportunities.
 Understand there are positive and negative consequences for all financial decisions.

In the Simulation

The Cash Flow Budget Tool (CFB) is used throughout the simulation for students to track income, payments made to each of the faux vendors, and for reconciling with their checking account. It reinforces the idea that there are positive and negative consequences for all financial decisions.

BIG NATION BANK

Bill Pay

Pay	Vendor	Type	Last Payment Date	Last Payment Amount
Select	Vista Vue Apartments	Apartment	3/3/2025	\$560.00
Select	AutoRex Auto Insurance	Auto Insurance		
Select	Zippy's Auto Loan	Auto Loan	2/11/2025	\$369.44
Select	Thumbsprain Cable Co	Cable	2/15/2025	\$49.50
Select	Minutes 4 Less	Cell Phone	3/7/2025	\$65.00
Select	Surge Credit Card	Credit Card	3/1/2025	\$369.75
Select	Lots-O-Watts Energy	Gas Electric	2/27/2025	\$95.00
Select	SafePlace Insurance	Renter's Insurance	2/3/2025	\$250.00
Select	Riptide Student Loan	Student Loan	2/24/2025	\$200.00

Checking Account Balance

\$666.65

Savings Account Balance

\$750.00

Checking Account Activity

Savings Account Activity

Transfer Funds

Pending Checks

Action	Payee	Name	Memo	Check #	Amount	Estimated Post Date
Delete	Surge Credit Card	Payment	Memo: extra payment CC	2445	\$300.00	3/12/2025
Delete	Thumbsprain Cable Co	Payment	Memo: Second Cable bill	2444	\$49.50	3/15/2025

Account Activity

Source	Date	Name	Description	Payee	Credit	Debit	Current Bal
Payment	3/11/2025	Payment Check # 2443	Memo: March Auto Loan	Zippy's Auto Loan	\$0.00	\$369.44	\$666.65
Payment	3/7/2025	Payment Check # 2441	Memo: Second Cell Bill	Minutes 4 Less	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$1,036.09
Statement	3/5/2025	Bank_Statement	Bank Statement		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,101.09
Monthly_Service_Fee	3/5/2025	Monthly_Service_Fee	Monthly Service Fee		\$0.00	\$8.00	\$1,101.09
Payment	3/3/2025	Payment Check # 2442	Memo: Rent bill	Vista Vue Apartments	\$0.00	\$560.00	\$1,109.09
Payment	3/1/2025	Payment Check # 2440	Memo: Credit card Feb	Surge Credit Card	\$0.00	\$369.75	\$1,669.09
Paycheck	2/27/2025	Widget Engineering and Design	Paycheck		\$1,388.86	\$0.00	\$2,038.84
Payment	2/27/2025	Payment Check # 2437	Memo: First Utilities bill	Lots-O-Watts Enerav	\$0.00	\$95.00	\$639.98

Students can verify that the checking account balance matches what they have tracked in their CFB.

Cash Flow Budgeting Tool - the Better Way to Budget®

2024-2025

Initialize Update the orange cell with the date your simulation starts.
 1 Income Enter starting checking account balance (in cell B13) and future paychecks based on the date funds are available.
 2 Expenses Enter payments (or expected payments) to vendors for bills on their expected transaction date.
 3 Goals Plan to achieve goals and earn trophies and make notes to yourself to help establish a routine and good habits.
 4 Balance If your balance is "in the red" you may want to make adjustments to your payment dates (possible grace period) or vendor selections.
 5 Maintain Enter bank fees and transfers to savings (and expected bank fees and transfers to savings) on their expected transaction date.

Watch Tutorial Video
 Filling Out Your CFB #3
 Getting Started Series

Simulation Date	Deposits	Withdrawals, Fees and Transfers	Apartment Rent	Auto Loan Bill	Auto Ins Bill	Cable Bill	Cell Phone Bill	Credit Card Bill	Utilities Bill	Renters Ins Bill	Student Loan Bill	Total Withdrawals	Total Deposits	Checking Acct Balance	Simulation Day Trophy Deadlines Notes / Reminders / To-Do's
2/20/2025											\$ 265.78	\$ 265.78	\$ -	\$934.98	28
2/21/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$934.98	29
2/22/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$934.98	30
2/23/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$934.98	31
2/24/2025											\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$734.98	32
2/25/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$734.98	33
2/26/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$734.98	34
2/27/2025									\$ 95.00			\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$639.98	35
2/28/2025	\$ 1,398.86							\$ 398.75				\$ 398.75	\$ 1,398.86	\$2,038.84	36 Credit Card Management Goal approaching
3/1/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,669.09	37
3/2/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,669.09	38
3/3/2025			\$ 580.00									\$ 580.00	\$ -	\$1,109.09	39
3/4/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,109.09	40
3/5/2025		\$ 8.00										\$ 8.00	\$ -	\$1,101.09	41
3/6/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,101.09	42
3/7/2025							\$ 85.00					\$ 85.00	\$ -	\$1,036.09	43
3/8/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,036.09	44
3/9/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,036.09	45
3/10/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,036.09	46
3/11/2025				\$ 389.44								\$ 389.44	\$ -	\$666.65	47
3/12/2025								\$ 300.00				\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$366.65	48 Reconciled through today
3/13/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$366.65	49 Retirement Savings Goal
3/14/2025	\$ 1,311.91											\$ -	\$ 1,311.91	\$1,678.56	50
3/15/2025							\$ 49.50					\$ 49.50	\$ -	\$1,629.06	51
3/16/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,629.06	52
3/17/2025												\$ -	\$ -	\$1,629.06	53

We see here that the student has reconciled their account through 3/11/2025.

If, for example, a student considers increasing their 401(k) contribution percentage to such a degree that they would not be able to pay their bills, the column for the Checking Account Balance in the CFB (highlighted in yellow) would show the shortfall and give the student the opportunity to reconsider that decision.

74	3/26/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$801.27	62
75	3/27/2025								\$ 95.00			\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$706.27	63
76	3/28/2025	\$ 1,049.90										\$ -	\$ 1,049.90	\$1,756.17	64
77	3/29/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,756.17	65
78	3/30/2025				\$ 1,298.51							\$ 1,298.51	\$ -	\$457.66	66
79	3/31/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$457.66	67
80	4/1/2025							\$ 700.00				\$ 700.00	\$ -	(\$242.34)	68
81	4/2/2025											\$ -	\$ -	(\$242.34)	69

- In the Textbook
- Chapter 3: Employment
- Chapter 5: Loans and Credit Cards
- Chapter 6: Saving and Investing
- Chapter 7: Investing for Retirement
- Chapter 8: Purchasing and Consumer Protection
- Chapter 9: Buying or Leasing a Vehicle
- Chapter 10: Housing
- Chapter 13: Building and Managing Credit

Ohio Requirement 3

Content Statement 3. Competencies (knowledge and skills), commitment (motivation and enthusiasm), competition (globalization and automation), training, work ethic, abilities and attitude are all factors impacting one's earning potential and employability.
CONTENT ELABORATION Twenty-first century skills, including critical thinking, media and communication skills, collaboration and creativity, are important in every job and not specific to any particular field. Being prompt, hard-working and honest, as well as having a good attitude also are important. Competencies can be defined as the knowledge, abilities and skills necessary for an employee to be successful in a specific job. Employees who are lifelong learners seek additional training and typically are more desirable to their employers.
EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING Identify how various training and education options beyond high school can further one's employability. Explore individual interests and skill sets to identify potential careers and opportunities to pursue. Explain how one can become more employable through training and education.

In the Simulation

Students immersed in the Budget Challenge® simulation may encounter situations they don't understand or where they have made a mistake. Students apply their communication skills by submitting questions to our online Help Desk, where our staff can view their account and answer any questions. Students are expected to submit these written communications in a courteous and professional manner. Teachers are carbon-copied on each response to a student, which includes their original question. Teachers find this feature helpful as they become aware of topics students require more in-depth explanations.

The simulation includes a student loan already in repayment, providing students a view into what loan payments will look like in the future, if they decide to incur student loan debt.

In the Textbook

Chapter 16: Next Steps

- Considering Careers
- Entering the Workforce
- Military Service
- College, Vocational, and Trade Schools
- Other Considerations

Chapter 16 Real World Activity: Evaluating Career Options

Chapter 16 Reading: Entrepreneurship and Side Hustles

Chapter 17: Paying for College

Ohio Requirement 4

Content Statement 4. Income sources include job earnings and benefits, entrepreneurship, saving and investment earnings, government payments, grants, inheritances, etc. Workers can experience dramatic income dips and spikes from month to month.
CONTENT ELABORATION <p>There are various sources of income that affect financial planning. Entrepreneurs take risks to increase potential opportunities for economic growth. Interest, dividends and capital appreciation (gains) are forms of income earned from financial investments.</p> <p>Monthly income can vary based on multiple factors, such as an individual's productivity and hours worked or larger economic changes and global markets. Some people receive government assistance because they qualify for one or more types of support.</p> <p>Various jobs can experience dramatic changes in income. In some industries, such as agriculture, an individual does not receive a regular paycheck and may be paid only after a crop is harvested once or twice a year. Another example is a roofer who can only work in certain weather conditions, causing income amounts to fluctuate. Workers in these situations must account for these fluctuations as they create their budgets.</p>
EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING <p>Compare and contrast different sources of income, including wages and salaries.</p> <p>Identify individual and larger economic changes that may cause monthly income to fluctuate.</p> <p>Explain how government assistance programs contribute to the financial stability of different individuals.</p>

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, all participants earn the same gross salary. However, there is a paycheck calculator that shows the breakdown of gross pay, federal, social security, Medicare, health insurance, optional 401(k) contribution, employer match, and net pay. Students are able to make changes to their 401(k) contribution percentage for each bi-weekly paycheck. Notice in the Payroll Calculator table how the increase in 401(k) contribution corresponds to lower federal taxes.

Payroll Calculator

Contribute %	Gross Pay	Federal	Soc Sec	Medicare	State	Health Ins	401k Contribution	Match	Net Pay
0	\$2,058.00	\$175.38	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$55.22	\$50.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,619.92
1	\$2,058.00	\$172.91	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$49.50	\$50.04	\$20.58	\$20.58	\$1,607.53
2	\$2,058.00	\$170.44	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$48.78	\$50.04	\$41.16	\$41.16	\$1,590.14
3	\$2,058.00	\$167.97	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$48.06	\$50.04	\$61.74	\$61.74	\$1,572.75
4	\$2,058.00	\$165.50	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$47.34	\$50.04	\$82.32	\$82.32	\$1,555.36
5	\$2,058.00	\$163.03	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$46.62	\$50.04	\$102.90	\$102.90	\$1,537.97
6	\$2,058.00	\$160.56	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$45.90	\$50.04	\$123.48	\$102.90	\$1,520.58
7	\$2,058.00	\$158.09	\$127.60	\$29.84	\$45.18	\$50.04	\$144.06	\$102.90	\$1,503.19

In the Textbook

Chapter 3: Employment

- Types of Pay
- Payroll
- Benefits

Chapter 7: Investing for Retirement

Chapter 12: Insurance and Managing Risk: Health, Life, and Disability

Chapter 15: Taxes

Chapter 16: Next Steps

Chapter 16 Reading: Entrepreneurship and Side Hustles

Ohio Requirement 5

Content Statement
5. Taxes, retirement, insurance, employment benefits, and both voluntary and involuntary deductions impact take-home pay.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Examples of voluntary and involuntary deductions include:

- federal, state and local taxes;
- retirement accounts or investment contributions;
- insurance premiums; and
- employment benefits.

Gross pay is the amount of pay an employee receives before taxes and other withholdings are taken from their paychecks. Net pay also is referred to as take-home pay and is the amount of money an employee receives after deductions and withholdings have been finalized.

Deductions from gross pay may be considered voluntary or involuntary. Examples of involuntary deductions may include federal, state and local taxes, retirement accounts, insurance and employment benefits. Voluntary deductions include investments and charitable donations.

EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING

Calculate the difference between net pay and gross pay of a fictional employee.

Compare several sample paystubs and the different deductions. Some are pre-tax, such as Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) or Healthcare Savings Accounts (HSA), that are included and will result in reduced personal tax liability.

In the Simulation

In addition to the Payroll Calculator mentioned in the prior requirement, Budget Challenge® provides students with paystubs for their bi-weekly paychecks and a W-2 form towards the end of the simulation. Paystubs and W-2 statements are unique to each student.

Paycheck Detail



Pay Date: 2/27/2025

Widget Engineering and Design - Paycheck

Gross Pay	\$2,058.00
Bonus Pay	
Federal Withholding	\$143.27
Social Security	\$127.60
Medicare	\$29.84
State Tax	\$40.85
Health Insurance Premium	\$50.04
401k Deduction	\$267.54
Net Pay	\$1,398.86

Not an Actual Bill - For Educational Purposes Only

Close

2222		* Employer's social security number		OMB No. 1545-0046	
b Employer identification number (EIN)		1 Wages, tips, other compensation		2 Federal income tax withheld	
12-345678		\$45,250.92		\$3,725.02	
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code		3 Social security wages		4 Social security tax withheld	
Widget Engineering and Design		\$52,206.96		\$3,317.60	
5854 Cogs Ave		5 Medicare wages and tips		6 Medicare tax withheld	
Anytown, OH 12345		\$52,206.96		\$775.84	
d Control number		7 Social security tips		8 Allocated tips	
9					
e Employer's first name and initial		11 Nonqualified plans		10 Dependent care benefits	
Last name		12		13	
Palмира Teacher		D		\$6,956.04	
Your Address		13		14	
Yourtown, OH, 12345		DD		\$6,194.79	
f Employer's address and ZIP code		14 Other		15	
15		16		17	
15 State Employer's state ID number		16 State wages, tips, etc.		17 State income tax	
OH 12345678		\$45,250.92		\$1,062.10	
		18 Local wages, tips, etc.		19 Local income tax	
		\$45,250.92			
				20 Locality name	

In the Textbook

Chapter 3: Employment

Chapter 12: Insurance and Risk Management: Health, Life, and Disability Insurance

Chapter 15: Taxes

Ohio Requirement 6

TOPIC: PLANNING AND MONEY MANAGEMENT
Content Statement 6. Financial responsibility includes the development of a spending and savings plan (personal budget).
CONTENT ELABORATION To achieve short- and long-term financial goals, a spending and savings plan (budget) must be created, evaluated and updated on a regular basis. Income and expenses must be accurately reflected for the budget to be a useful tool for an individual. S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound) goals help individuals determine and remember what their financial goals should reflect. People should revise their budgets to prepare for unplanned changes in income. A budget should include short-term savings or emergency funds that could pay for an unexpected expense, such as a car repair. Long-term savings can be used toward larger goals, such as a down payment on a house or retirement.
EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING Devise a budget for current short- and long-term goals, income and expenses. Identify factors that could force an individual to change his or her budget. Prepare a monthly budget for a family or individual given their income, savings goals and taxes, as well as their fixed and variable expenses.

In the Simulation

Students use their Cash Flow Budget Tool (CFB) to forecast expected bills, track actual income, and actual expenses. We encourage students to develop the habit of monitoring their online accounts and reconciling their cash flow budget tool every few days. Dashboard alerts are used to communicate unexpected events during the simulation. Unexpected events can include but are not limited to: a motor vehicle accident, theft, fire, health expense, motor vehicle repair, and travel/work emergency. These unexpected events may force students to change their budget. Students are provided with information to make necessary adjustments to their CFB. They can adjust their 401(k) contribution or other bills payments to adapt to the new circumstances.

The Perfect Pay Trophy reward timely payment of expected bills. The Emergency Fund Trophy rewards setting aside money for unexpected expenses in the short-term. The Retirement Savings Trophy rewards saving for the future and long-term goals.



In the Textbook

Chapter 1: Keys to Financial Success

- Successful Financial Management
- Foundation Principles
- Managing Risk
- Budgeting Basics — Creating a Plan

Chapter 2: Playing Budget Challenge

Ohio Requirement 7

Content Statement
7. Financial institutions offer a variety of products and services to address financial responsibility.

CONTENT ELABORATION
There are many different types of financial institutions, such as banks, online banks, credit unions and brokerage houses. Each financial institution serves different needs of consumers.
Typical products and services offered by financial institutions, such as savings accounts, checking accounts and financial planning services, help consumers manage their finances. Most financial institutions have financial planners who can help people make financial plans to reach their goals.
Consumers must know how much money they have available in their checking accounts prior to withdrawing money or making purchases with debit cards linked to those accounts. Consumers should reconcile their checkbooks regularly to ensure their records match the bank records.

EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING
Evaluate products and services from financial institutions that a student might use, such as a checking and savings account, and discuss advantages and disadvantages of different products.
Reconcile a checking and savings account balance using both an account register and an electronic tool.

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, students are offered choices for different types of checking accounts with different terms structures. Some checking accounts have minimum balance requirements, overdraft protection, interest rates, and other fees. Students must keep their choice of checking account type for the duration of the simulation. The bank offers a linked Savings account by default which is used by students for their short-term Emergency Fund goal. Each student has a 401(k) account through the Employer where bi-weekly 401(k) contributions are deposited. Within the Auto Loan category, students are offered a choice between a traditional bank loan and a credit union loan. Students are able to view their transactions on the online bank page (electronically) and reconcile that with their Cash Flow Budget Tool (CFB) that goes beyond a traditional account register.

Banking Option Type	Monthly Service Fee	Overdraft Protection	Overdraft Per Day Fee	Minimum Balance	Negative Balance Fee	Non-Sufficient Funds Fee	ATM	Interest Rate
Option #1 L2024 City Bank Free Checking	\$5.00*	No	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$3.00	\$78.95	3 free per month at network ATMs	N/A
Option #2 Big Nation Bank Everyday Checking	\$8.00	Yes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$78.95	3 free per month from network plus reimbursement for 1 non-network ATM	N/A
Option #3 Community CU Member Checking	\$3.00	Yes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$25.00	3 free per month at network ATMs	N/A
Option #4 Community CU Interest Plus Checking	\$6.00*	Yes	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$3.00	\$25.00	3 free per month at network ATMs	0.05% network ATM

*Monthly service fee is waived if account balance is maintained above minimum balance for the entire statement cycle.

Account Activity

Source	Date	Name	Description	Payee	Credit	Debit	Current Bal
Payment	3/11/2025	Payment Check # 2443	Memo: March Auto Loan	Zepher's Auto Loan	\$0.00	\$389.44	\$556.05
Payment	3/7/2025	Payment Check # 2441	Memo: Secured Cell Bill	Minibus 4 Less	\$0.00	\$95.00	\$1,026.09
Statement	3/5/2025	Bank Statement	Bank Statement		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,101.09
Monthly Service Fee	3/5/2025	Monthly Service Fee	Monthly Service Fee		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,101.09
Payment	3/3/2025	Payment Check # 2442	Memo: Rent Bill	Vista Van Apartments	\$0.00	\$580.00	\$1,100.09
Payment	3/1/2025	Payment Check # 2440	Memo: Credit card Feb	Sarge Credit Card	\$0.00	\$369.75	\$1,069.09
Paycheck	2/27/2025	Widjet Engineering and Design	Paycheck		\$1,368.00	\$0.00	\$2,038.04
Payment	2/27/2025	Payment	Memo: First Utilities bill	Late-O-Watts	\$0.00	\$95.00	\$839.00

Cash Flow Budgeting Tool - the Better Way to Budget®

2024-2025

Widjet Engineering and Design

1. Budget - Under the orange cell with the date your simulation starts.
2. Deposits - Enter banking opening deposit balances for all BICs and leave zeroed-out based on the date funds are available.
3. Payments - Enter payments (or expected payments) to vendors for bills on their expected transaction date.
4. Checks - Use to enter checks and auto-payments and make sure to specify to help establish a system and good habits.
5. Balance - Enter balance "in the red" you may want to make adjustments to your payment dates (possibly your current or vendor's schedule).
6. Bank fees and transfers to savings (not expected bank fees and transfers to savings on their expected transaction date).

Simulation Date	Deposits	Withdrawals, Fees and Transfers	Apartment Rent	Auto Loan Bill	Auto Ins Bill	Cable Bill	Cell Phone / Credit Card Bill	Utilities Bill	Members Ins Bill	Student Loan Bill	Total Withdrawals	Total Deposits	Checking Acct Balance	Simulation Day
1/20/2025	\$ 1,000.00										\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Launch Day (initially Vendor Schedule) (week)
1/27/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/3/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/10/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/17/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/24/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
3/1/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
3/8/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
3/15/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
3/22/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
3/29/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
4/5/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
4/12/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
4/19/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
4/26/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
5/3/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
5/10/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
5/17/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
5/24/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
5/31/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
6/7/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
6/14/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
6/21/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
6/28/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
7/5/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
7/12/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
7/19/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
7/26/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
8/2/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
8/9/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
8/16/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
8/23/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
8/30/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
9/6/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
9/13/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
9/20/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
9/27/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
10/4/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
10/11/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
10/18/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
10/25/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
11/1/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
11/8/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
11/15/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
11/22/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
11/29/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
12/6/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
12/13/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
12/20/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
12/27/2025											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
1/3/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
1/10/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
1/17/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
1/24/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
1/31/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/7/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/14/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/21/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	
2/28/2026											\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000.00	

In the Textbook

Chapter 4: Banking

Chapter 4 Real World Activity: Checking Account Reconciliation

Ohio Requirement 8

<p>Content Statement 8. Financial experts provide guidance and advice on a wide variety of financial issues.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Financial experts, such as Certified Public Accountants and financial planners, are available to help consumers make financial decisions. Consider qualifications and fees when seeking the advice of financial experts. Financial experts can be associated with banks, brokerage houses or credit unions or can be independent brokers who help consumers create plans to reach short- and long-term financial goals.</p> <p>Financial planners can be certified in different ways, receiving credentials from an industry such as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) or by the government through the Security Exchange Committee (SEC). Consumers need to do their homework to choose the best planner to meet their needs.</p> <p>EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING Explain the roles and responsibilities of a financial planner. Identify qualifications to look for when searching for a financial planner.</p>

In the Textbook

Chapter 6: Saving and Investing

Chapter 7: Saving for Retirement

Ohio Requirements 9 & 10

<p>Content Statement 9. Planning for and paying local, state, and federal taxes is a financial responsibility.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Federal, state and local entities levy taxes in many forms. It is the responsibility of each citizen to pay taxes. The cost of various taxes must be figured into an individual's spending and savings plan.</p> <p>Different sources and amounts of income, as well as the spending habits of consumers, affect the types and amounts of taxes paid. When employees start new jobs, they typically fill out a W-4 form from the IRS and other state and local tax documents that employers use to determine withholdings from take-home pay. Tax withholdings can be adjusted so that employees may receive a refund or owe additional taxes to the IRS and state and local municipalities when income tax returns are filed. Independently contracted workers do not have taxes withheld from paychecks but still are required to pay federal, state and local taxes.</p> <p>All employed workers must annually report income amounts and sources to the Internal Revenue Service, as well as to the states and municipalities in which they reside.</p> <p>Tax rates often differ between municipalities and states.</p> <p>EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING Fill out a sample W-4, 1040 federal tax form, and state and local tax forms either as an employee or an independent contractor. Investigate how local taxes are calculated between municipalities.</p>
<p>Content Statement 10. Taxpayers may save money by understanding and using tax credits and deductions.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Tax credits and deductions can be used to reduce tax liability and help individuals reach financial goals. Tax laws may change from year to year, and it is important to stay current with tax law.</p> <p>EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING Identify and describe how tax credits and deductions influence total tax liability.</p>

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, the character is single and has been out of college for at least 6 months. Teachers can use this information to manually fill out a W-4 with the class. During the simulation, students can view the Payroll Calculator with a breakdown of gross pay, taxes, withholdings, and net pay. Towards the end of the simulation, students can view their W-2 and use that to fill out a 1040 federal tax form.

In the Textbook

Chapter 15: Taxes

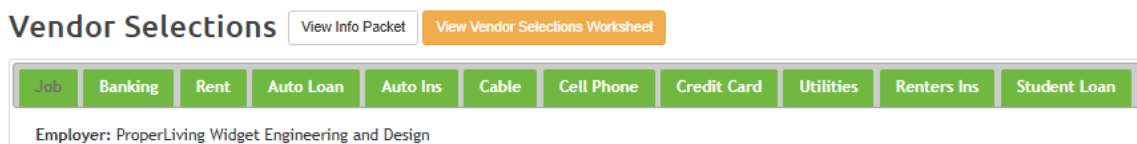
Chapter 15 Real World Activity: Finding and Completing Tax Forms

Ohio Requirement 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15

TOPIC: INFORMED CONSUMER
<p>Content Statement 11. An informed consumer makes decisions on purchases that may include a decision-making strategy to determine if purchases are within their budget.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Consumers make economic choices almost daily. When faced with choices about which items to purchase, consumers must consider their personal budgets, needs and other factors. All economic choices require consumers to apply a cost-benefit analysis to their decisions, which result in trade-offs. Advertising impacts consumers. Businesses need to make profits and advertise their products to gain more customers. Consumers must pay close attention to the details of advertisements to make sure they are receiving what is being advertised.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Explain the many factors a consumer considers before purchasing goods or services.</p>
<p>Content Statement 12. Consumer advocates, organizations and regulations provide important information and help protect against potential consumer fraud.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Consumer fraud is a deceptive practice that results in financial or other losses for consumers during seemingly legitimate business transactions. Personal vigilance is one way to prevent fraud. Federal government agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Office of Consumer Protection exist to offer information and protection to consumers in matters of fraud. The Office of the Treasurer and Attorney General of Ohio also help consumers be aware of potential frauds and scams. These agencies may be able to help victims recover some or all their losses from fraud. Nongovernment organizations such as the Better Business Bureau also educate consumers about fraud. There are laws that protect consumers from fraud. If a company is found guilty of fraud, there are consequences.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Identify ways consumers can identify fraud and protect themselves from becoming a victim of fraud. Describe the process for consumers who believe they are victims of fraud to seek recompense. Describe the consumer protections provided to citizens through government and consumer agencies.</p>

In the simulation

Budget Challenge® excels at showing students a variety of products and services with different terms and conditions. Students must weigh the opportunity costs of their choices prior to the simulation start during Vendor Selections. Students will be exposed to many new terms and will need to read the fine print to make their choices.



During the simulation, students will receive and review invoices for two different loan products (auto loan and student loan), a credit card, utilities, cell phone, rent, cable, auto insurance, renter’s insurance, and a monthly bank statement.

In the Textbook

Chapter 1: Keys to Financial Success

Chapter 8: Purchasing and Consumer Protection

Chapter 9: Buying or Leasing a Vehicle

Chapter 10: Housing

Chapter 11: Insurance and Managing Risk: Motor Vehicle and Property

Chapter 12: Insurance and Managing Risk: Health, Life, and Disability

Chapter 17: Paying for College

<p>Content Statement 13. Part of being an informed consumer is knowing how to utilize financial services and risk management tools, as well as comparing consumer lending terms and conditions and reading financial statements.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Many financial institutions offer lending services that include credit cards, lines of credit and loans. Before consumers make choices regarding credit or loans, it is important they know and understand the terms and conditions, including the terms of repayment, interest rates, late fees and service fees. This information can be found by reading all the information provided by the institution prior to applying for credit or a loan.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Compare the terms and conditions of the consumer lending statements from two or more financial institutions to determine which one is better for a given consumer.</p>
<p>Content Statement 14. Consumer protection laws help safeguard individuals from fraud and potential loss.</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION Laws, such as the Truth in Lending Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and Fair Credit Reporting Act, help protect consumers from fraud and potential financial loss.</p> <p>Consumers must monitor their credit card and financial accounts to be aware of fraudulent purchases or withdrawals.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Identify a consumer protection law and explain why it was developed and how it serves to protect individuals from fraud and potential loss.</p>
<p>Content statement 15. Planned purchasing decisions factor in direct (price) and indirect costs (e.g. sales/use tax, excise tax, shipping, handling, and delivery charges, etc.).</p>
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION When making a purchase, consumers should know there are costs beyond the purchase price. These costs may include sales tax, delivery charges, shipping, handling and membership fees. When considering the total price, consumers must consider all the indirect costs.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Identify the difference between direct and indirect costs.</p> <p>Compare and contrast the overall costs of goods and services from various distributors (wholesale, retail, online).</p>

In the Textbook

Chapter 5 Real World Activity: Comparing Secured Loans

Chapter 8: Purchasing and Consumer Protection

Chapter 9: Buying or Leasing a Vehicle

Chapter 10: Housing

Chapter 17: Paying for College

Chapter 17 Real World Activity: Funding Post-Secondary Education

Ohio requirements 16, 17, and 18

TOPIC: INVESTING
Content Statement 16. Using key investing principles, one can achieve the goal of increasing net worth.
CONTENT ELABORATION <p>The purpose of investing is to increase and protect net worth in the short- and long-term. Investing principles exist to guide individuals in choosing investments to increase net worth.</p> <p>Investing strategies may include planning, saving and investing for the long term, investigating before you invest and, because individuals who start saving at an early age have more time for compound interest to increase their wealth, avoiding the cost of delay. Investments include mutual funds, bank CDs, bonds, stocks and real estate. Many factors may impact the value of investments. As consumers evaluate potential investments, they must consider safety, liquidity, fees and the rate of return.</p> <p>A technology company that releases a new and highly anticipated update most likely will have the value of its stock increase. If the same release has many errors or flaws or consumers do not like the new technology, the value of the stock will most likely decrease.</p>
EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Devise a plan to increase net worth given a predetermined amount of money.
Content Statement 17. Investment strategies must take several factors into consideration including the time horizon of the investment, the degree of diversification, the investor's risk tolerance, how the assets are selected and allocated, product costs, fees, tax implications and the time value of money.
CONTENT ELABORATION <p>One of the tools investors use to increase the value of their net worth is time. By planning on investing for the long term, investors have the benefit of compounding interest and allowing investments to increase in value.</p> <p>Investors must select assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 401(k) plans and IRAs and decide how to allocate their funds. As investors review potential investments, they must consider the costs of the products, fees and taxes for their situations. Investors must determine their willingness to take risks. Risk tolerance depends on factors such as personality, income, family situation and current net worth.</p> <p>The time value of money is the idea that a dollar today is worth more than a dollar in the future. This is because the dollar received today can earn interest up until the time the future dollar is received.</p>
EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Identify and compare the administrative costs (fees) and taxes of various investment products. Identify the more advantageous investment strategy for different individuals in given scenarios.

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, students have the opportunity to invest for retirement using a 401(k) contribution from their bi-weekly paycheck. Asset allocations can be made for the bi-weekly contributions. Trades can also be made within the portfolio. Students are encouraged to devise a plan for their investment strategy (passive / strategic investor), and to minimize expense ratios of their investments. Mutual Fund Fact Sheets are provided describing investment options. Four trophies associated with investments are:

- Retirement Savings Trophy
- Strategic Investor Trophy
- Fully Invested Trophy
- Low-Cost Investor Trophy

In the Textbook

Chapter 4: Banking

Chapter 6: Saving and Investing

Chapter 7: Investing for Retirement

Content Statement 18. Government agencies are charged with regulating providers of financial services to help protect investors.
CONTENT ELABORATION <p>Historically, regulatory agencies have been created to help protect investors from unethical practices, including price gouging and monopolies. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), National Credit Union Association (NCUA) and other government agencies regulate providers of financial services.</p>
EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING Explain the specific roles of agencies and the services they can offer to consumers.

In the Textbook

Chapter 8: Purchasing and Consumer Protection

Ohio Requirements 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

TOPIC: CREDIT AND DEBT

Content Statement

19. Credit is a contractual agreement in which a borrower receives something of value now and agrees to repay to lender at some later date.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Loans are forms of credit. Loans are available at banks and financial institutions, as well as at payday lenders. Payday lenders typically advertise the availability of loans with no down payment or credit check or as easy money if consumers need cash before their next payday.

The difference between a loan from a bank and a payday lender is the term of the loan. Payday lenders typically charge high interest and include significant fees for the loan. The amount of money a borrower repays is much larger than the original amount borrowed. Often, the terms of the payday loan are unclear.

The group that is most likely to use payday lenders is typically "unbanked." Unbanked people are described by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as those adults without accounts at banks or other financial institutions and are outside the financial mainstream for one reason or another. Young adults ages 18-24 make up one of the largest groups of the unbanked. Many unbanked individuals end up using payday lenders and paying high fees for financial services without the benefit of establishing a good credit history.

Borrowers must repay loans according to the contractual terms. Banks and financial institutions may allow loans to be paid back early with no penalties. Paying off payday loans early may add more fees to the loans.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING

Describe the difference between a loan from a bank and one from a payday lender.

Compare the final repayment amount of a loan from a bank and a loan from a payday lender on a large purchase such as a car.

Investigate barriers to individuals that may lead them to be unbanked.

Content Statement

20. Debt is an obligation owed by one party to a second party.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Debt is considered a promise of payment whether it is in the form of a personal loan, vehicle loan, mortgage or credit card bill. Consumers have a legal obligation to pay debt.

Individuals must be careful not to accumulate too much debt. Too much debt means that a person or family regularly struggles to pay off credit cards and loans each month in addition to paying for daily necessities. If a person cannot repay one or more loans or keep up with payments, private and government organizations provide credit counseling and help consumers create plans to pay off the debt.

Consumers can take steps to set up repayment plans if they are struggling to repay debts. For some debt, such as student loans or medical debt, consumers can contact the billing agencies directly to create their own repayment plans and may avoid negative impact on their credit scores.

The federal government also has established bankruptcy codes and courts to assist people in financial trouble to settle their debts and eventually re-establish good financial standing.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING

Develop a repayment plan to satisfy debt obligations in a given scenario.

Explain the implications of declaring bankruptcy.

Content Statement

21. Effectively balancing credit and debt helps one achieve some short and long-term goals.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Effectively balancing debt is an important part of establishing and maintaining a good credit score. A person's credit score is a measure of consumer credit risk. Financial institutions use consumers' credit scores to determine if they will extend loans and to determine loan terms. Scores range from 300-850, and higher scores reflect a better credit history. People who have higher credit scores typically receive lower interest rates for new loans from banks.

Credit scores are based on factors such as length of time the person has had financial accounts, types of credit used, payment history, amounts owed and new credit.

Attaining a high credit score is one of the goals consumers should set.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING

Discuss steps a consumer can take to get and keep a high credit score.

Discuss factors that will reduce credit scores.

Content Statement
22. Financial documents and contractual obligations inform the consumer and define the terms and conditions of establishing credit and incurring debt.

CONTENT ELABORATION

When incurring debt, consumers need to be able to read and understand the complex documents that describe the terms and conditions to which they are agreeing before signing an agreement. Consumers often do not understand that credit cards are a form of debt, and they may have difficulty paying credit cards if they have too many or only pay the minimum amount due each month.

The Truth in Lending Act (TILA) was passed by Congress in 1968 and was designed to promote the informed use of consumer credit by requiring disclosures about the terms and costs to the consumer who uses credit cards. The TILA ensures the important information consumers need to make decisions about different credit cards is easily available and understandable.

The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure, or Credit CARD Act was signed into law in 2009 to further protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by credit card companies.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING

Evaluate several credit card offers and choose the best card based on criteria such as interest rate, fees and rewards programs.

Describe how the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) and Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (Credit CARD) Acts protect consumers.

Content Statement
23. Many options exist for paying for post-secondary education opportunities.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Research a career field of interest. Review the income potential and educational or training requirements. There are various methods to pay for postsecondary education or training options, including grants, loans, scholarships, work reimbursement, military and personal savings. Many students who continue their education or training choose to borrow money, apply for grants or scholarships or take on additional employment. Grants and scholarships typically are not repaid, but the student must meet certain criteria to be eligible. There are many kinds of student loans with different interest rates. Students must be savvy consumers and understand the terms of their loans prior to signing agreements. Many financial institutions also offer loan programs for prospective students. Consider the potential income of that career when reviewing loan repayment schedules.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING

Evaluate choices for funding postsecondary education options considering amount available, interest, repayment options and total cost.

Evaluate the advantages and limitations of various career opportunities.

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, students learn about the concepts of banking, credit cards, and loans through experience. Students compare different offerings for auto loans, credit cards, checking accounts, and a student loan. Students read the fine print to compare terms, payments, and fee structures. They make selections in each category before the simulation starts. Then, once the simulation begins, students will receive notifications regarding bills and monthly statements.

Invoice

ZIPPY'S AUTO LOAN

Zippy's Auto Loan
6548 Borrowing Way
Anytown, OH 12345

Statement Date: 3/3/2025
Invoice Number: 1962

Minimum Payment Due: \$369.44
Payment Due By: 3/11/2025

Zippy's Auto Loan - Auto Loan Invoice

Previous Account Balance	\$20,008.67
Payments	Amount Date
	\$369.44 2/11/2025
Fees	\$0.00
Credits and Adjustments	\$0.00
New Charges	\$0.00
Interest Accrued	\$69.56
Loan Balance	\$19,708.79
Current Bill Amount	\$369.44
Due Date	3/11/2025

Not an Actual Bill - For Educational Purposes Only

Amortization Schedule

Credit Union Bank

- Loan Amount \$19,938.00
- Interest Rate 3.25%
- Payment \$360.48
- Term 5 years

Year	Period	Starting Balance	Payment	Interest	Principal Pmt	Ending Balance	Cumulative Interest	Cumulative Principal Pmt
1	1	\$19,938.00	\$360.48	\$54.00	\$306.48	\$19,631.52	\$54.00	\$306.48
1	2	\$19,631.52	\$360.48	\$53.17	\$307.31	\$19,324.21	\$107.17	\$613.79
1	3	\$19,324.21	\$360.48	\$52.34	\$308.14	\$19,016.07	\$159.51	\$921.93
1	4	\$19,016.07	\$360.48	\$51.50	\$308.98	\$18,707.09	\$211.01	\$1,230.91
1	5	\$18,707.09	\$360.48	\$50.67	\$309.81	\$18,397.28	\$261.68	\$1,540.72
1	6	\$18,397.28	\$360.48	\$49.83	\$310.65	\$18,086.63	\$311.51	\$1,851.37
1	7	\$18,086.63	\$360.48	\$48.98	\$311.50	\$17,775.13	\$360.49	\$2,162.87
1	8	\$17,775.13	\$360.48	\$48.14	\$312.34	\$17,462.79	\$408.63	\$2,475.21

Budget Challenge® rewards students for positive financial behaviors in several ways.

- First, students earn the Perfect Pay Trophy for on-time payments. The trophy is divided into two parts, so that students can be given rewards for meeting this goal in each half of the simulation.
- Second, students are encouraged to keep an eye on the on-going credit card usage by the simulation character. While all students have the same expenses on the credit card, they are given goals for credit utilization in order to gain daily points on their score. Students can make payments to the credit card throughout the game to keep their credit utilization in check. If students maintain a high credit card balance, they lose points daily on their score. An overarching Credit Card management Trophy rewards keeping the credit card utilization below a certain limit over time.
- Third, students are encouraged to look for opportunities to pay down debt. The Debt reduction trophy rewards making an extra loan payment to reduce the principal balance.

Rank & Stats
(Gauging Success)

Current Points
9,857 pts

Your Class Rank
1
out of 1

Legend: Your Score (Blue), Class Avg (Green), Percentile (Grey line)

Hide Details

Your Point Details					
Date	Pts Earned	Pts Lost	Type	Vendor	Description
3/13/2025	3.00	0.00	Emergency_Fund	Bank	Daily_Score_Reward
3/13/2025	102.90	0.00	Paycheck	_401K	Employer_Match_Contribution
3/13/2025	308.70	0.00	Paycheck	_401K	Employee_Contribution
3/13/2025	5.00	0.00	Credit_Utilization	CreditCard	Daily_Score_Reward
3/12/2025	3.00	0.00	Emergency_Fund	Bank	Daily_Score_Reward

Category	Total
Trophy Points	4,500.00
Plus Investing Trophy Points	1,000.00
Retirement Savings	3,993.55
Credit Utilization Rewards	235.00
Emergency Fund Rewards	144.00
Daily Late Fee Penalties	0.00
Credit Utilization Penalties	0.00
Emergency Fund Penalties	0.00
Late Fee Penalties	0.00
Fees	16.00

Trophy Breakdown

Savings Breakdown

In the Textbook

Chapter 4: Banking

Chapter 5: Loans and Credit Cards

Chapter 13: Building and Managing Credit

Chapter 16 Real World Activity: Evaluating Career Options

Chapter 17: Paying for College

Chapter 17 Real World Activity: Funding Post-Secondary Education

Ohio Requirement 24

TOPIC: RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE
Content Statement 24. A risk management plan can protect consumers from the potential loss of personal and/or business assets or income.
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION</p> <p>When consumers purchase items such as cars, appliances and electronics, typically there are factory warranties and extended warranties offered to the consumer to protect against product defect or damage.</p> <p>Extended warranties and service plans typically are offered by the business that sold the item and are a separate cost from the item. Warranties operate in a similar way to insurance. Businesses can minimize losses by purchasing various forms of insurance.</p> <p>Businesses can carry insurance that will protect them against damage or loss of property, business interruption, product liability lawsuits, employee negligence, libel and slander.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING</p> <p>Describe the difference between a warranty and extended warranty on a given product.</p>

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge® students are required to select renter’s insurance and auto insurance. They are provided with health insurance through the employer. The cell phone plan options include one with and one without coverage for the device. Unexpected events can occur during the simulation that result in the use of insurance such as a motor vehicle crash, theft, fire, health issue, and loss/damage to the cell phone.

In the Textbook

Chapter 8: Purchasing and Consumer Protection

Chapter 11: Insurance and Managing Risk: Motor Vehicle and Property

Chapter 12: Insurance and Managing Risk: Health, Life, and Disability

Chapter 12 Real World Activity: Do You Need Supplemental Insurance?

Ohio Requirement 25

Content Statement 25. Safeguards exist that help protect one's identity.
<p>CONTENT ELABORATION</p> <p>Identity theft is a growing problem; often it is very easy for thieves to steal an identity and ruin an individual's credit. Individuals must be vigilant with personal information, such as their social security numbers or credit cards numbers, sharing only with trusted sources. Individuals can take steps to protect their identity and even purchase insurance to protect themselves from identity theft.</p> <p>If identity theft is suspected, an individual must act quickly to lessen the impact of the theft. The individual should notify all financial institutions that he or she does business with, so they can take appropriate action. The individual also should file a police report and notify credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion) to file a fraud alert. The Federal Trade Commission has a form titled the Theft Victim's Complaint and Affidavit which may help as individuals deal with creditors. Consumers should close all accounts that may have been accessed fraudulently.</p> <p>EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING</p> <p>Describe problems that can occur when an individual is a victim of identity theft.</p> <p>Give specific examples of how online transactions, online banking, email scams and telemarketing calls can make consumers vulnerable to identity theft.</p> <p>Describe the conditions under which individuals should and should not disclose their social security number, account numbers and other sensitive personal information.</p> <p>Recommend actions a victim of identity theft should take to limit losses and restore personal security.</p>

In the Textbook

Chapter 14: Data Security

- The Need to Secure Your Data
- Safeguarding Personal Information

- Phishing, Vishing and Other Imposter Fraud
- Dealing with Identity Theft

Ohio Requirement 26

TOPIC: RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

Content Statement

26. Diversification of assets is one way to manage risk.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Investing in different types of financial assets, called diversification, can lower investment risk. Consumers must make decisions about choosing investments that may include high-, medium- and low-risk options. Investors make decisions about types of investments based on goals, their age, tolerance of risk and personal interest.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING









Cite examples of high-, medium- and low-risk investments.

Explain why it is important to diversify and how the composition of a portfolio changes over time.

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, students are able to allocate their 401(k) contributions into specific investments. They are able to define allocations for new bi-weekly contributions from their paychecks and make trades within their portfolio. Fact Sheets are provided for each.

Fund Information

Fund	Fact Sheet	Expense Ratio	Risk Level	Description
Money Market		0.00%	Conservative	Vault Fund manager Penny Sayvid prioritizes the safest investments such as United States Treasury bills, and other government debt instruments along with a small percentage of higher yielding certificates of deposit and time deposits. The fund attempts to keep the share price at one dollar with an emphasis on capital preservation. The fund is very secure but recent low interest rates mean that fees offset most interest rate gain, meaning any dividend payout is low.
Bond Fund		0.45%	Conservative	The fund invests up to 20% of assets into foreign and emerging markets looking for bonds that offer higher interest rates at relatively low risk.
Target Date Fund		0.55%	Aggressive	Target Date funds promote themselves as "putting your retirement on autopilot for a first-class ride into retirement". Their Target Date 2060 Fund is more conservative than some other offerings which has reduced negative swings but may hurt the overall performance long-term, only time will tell.
Small Cap Fund		1.25%	Aggressive	As managers they are willing to make large bets on small companies they believe are undervalued relative to their peers based on earnings and tangible assets. Expenses are average for this category of actively managed funds but their strategy of large concentrations in a small number of funds does increase risk.
Large Cap Fund		1.34%	Aggressive	Long-time managers Tina Sharpey and Kevin Dolar have been able to identify some of the high-flying stocks of the past decade, leading to above average returns most years. Early bets on tech names such as Facebook and Amazon have led to higher than average returns, offsetting losses in other growth companies whose prospects never materialized. Higher than average fees keeps us from giving PPCDOX our top ranking.
Index Fund (S&P500)		0.04%	Aggressive	The fund approximates the holdings of the S&P 500 Index. It provides exposure to 500 of the largest U.S. companies across different industries that account for approximately 75% of the U.S. stock market's value.
International Stock Market		1.79%	Aggressive	This fund's strategy is to identify small to medium sized foreign growth companies that he expects to make significant price moves in six to twelve months. Consequently, the fund is characterized by high turnover which contributes to the above average expense ratio. When the fund is hot, it is one of the hottest, producing sharp short-term gains. Because it invests in small companies there is increased risk along with the exchange rate risk when the dollar is strong.
Real Estate		0.94%	Moderate	The fund mainly invests in the common and preferred stocks of real estate investment trusts or REITs. REITs own and operate apartments, hotels, office buildings, medical buildings, and other real estate investments. The fund may also invest in other related investments such as home builders, land, cellular towers, and data storage facilities.
Cash		0.00%	Conservative	This fund is cash only. No interest is paid for money held in cash.

In the Textbook

Chapter 6: Saving and Investing

- Saving and Investing Basics
- Saving and Investing Considerations
- Types of Investments
- Mutual Fund Basics
- Types of Investment Accounts

Chapter 7: Investing for Retirement

- Retirement Realities
- Start Early and Use Tax Advantaged Investing
- Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans
- Individual Retirement Accounts

- Selecting Mutual Funds
- Determining Retirement Needs

Ohio Requirement 27

Content Statement

27. A comprehensive insurance plan (health, life, disability, auto, homeowners, renters, liability, etc.) serves as a safeguard against potential loss.

CONTENT ELABORATION

Individuals choose different amounts of insurance coverage based on willingness to accept risk, their occupation, lifestyle, age, financial profile and the prices of insurance. Individuals may be required by governments or certain types of contracts (such as home mortgages) to purchase insurance. Health insurance provides funds to pay for preventative care and treatment of illness or injury.

Disability insurance provides funds to replace income lost while an individual is ill or injured and unable to work. Property and casualty insurance (including renters insurance) pays for damage or loss to the insured person's property and may include liability coverage. Most life insurance benefits are paid to the insured person's beneficiaries in the event of the policyholder's death.

EXPECTATION FOR LEARNING

Explore the coverage and cost for various insurance products such as health, life, disability, auto, homeowners, renters and liability.

Research the likelihood that disability and life insurance is needed to replace an income stream.

In the Simulation

In Budget Challenge®, students are provided health insurance through the employer. They are required to select products for auto insurance and renter's insurance. The fine print is available during Vendor Selections, when students can weigh the trade-offs between the products offered for each category. Unexpected events such as a car crash, theft, fire, health issue, and loss/damage to the cell phone occur during the simulation that result in the use of these products.

In the Textbook

Chapter 3: Employment

Chapter 11: Insurance and Managing Risk: Motor Vehicle and Property

Chapter 12: Insurance and Managing Risk: Health, Life, and Disability