

# Better Lives. Stronger Communities. Healthy Finances

## Real Money, Real World

Ohio State University Extension's *Real Money, Real World* is a financial literacy program ideally suited for youth ages 13–16. Four classroom lessons are provided followed by a real-life spending simulation where students use their new knowledge.



**Real Money, Real World** consists of the following three-parts:

**Part I:** Four preparatory classroom lessons and PowerPoint presentations provided to the teacher. Lessons include:

- 1) Training, Jobs and Income
- 2) Deductions: What You See Is Not What You Get
- 3) How to Use Financial Services Wisely
- 4) Making Choices: Preparing for the Simulation

**Part II:** An interactive, hands-on budget management and decision-making spending simulation organized by OSU Extension. Students will visit 14 booths to make choices based on their individual and family needs. The booths mirror typical living expenses, such as Child Care, Clothing, Contributions, Communications, Credit Card, Housing, Insurance, Food, Student Loans, Health and Wellness, Transportation, Entertainment, Insurance, and Chance.

**Part III:** An optional post-simulation classroom lesson and PowerPoint presentation, as well as a student self-assessment of the spending choices they made during the simulation.



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FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES  
THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY  
THE COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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### What's the impact in Warren County?

In 2022, **480** youth in Warren County participated in Ohio State University Extension's *Real Money, Real World* program. Students were from the Kings Local School District, Lebanon City School District, Mary Haven Youth Center, and Springboro Community City School District.

The **results** are promising...

- ✓ **96%** of students indicated that participating in this program will help them in the future.
- ✓ **98%** of students indicated that participating in this program gave them a better idea of what is involved in earning, spending, and managing money.

Perhaps most telling are the comments received from students to the question, **“What did you learn that surprised you the most?”**

- “Children are expensive.”
- “It was crazy how fast my money went down.”
- “I learned how to spend money wisely.”
- “That the real world is really hard and really expensive.”



*Real Money, Real World* has three primary goals:

1. To increase students' awareness of how education level and corresponding career choice influence personal income and financial security.
2. To increase students' knowledge of money management tools used in daily spending for cost-of-living decisions.
3. To increase students' awareness of how income and lifestyle choices affect the amount of money available for discretionary spending.

To learn more about *Real Money, Real World* in Warren County, please contact:

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