



NeighborImpact

Critical Needs. Diverse Services. Empowering Change.

FINANCIAL FITNESS CLASS CURRICULUM

Banking & Budgeting:

This class provides an overview of banking services and is designed to help students build a positive relationship with a financial institution. Also in this class, students learn how to manage their money by preparing a personal spending plan and identifying ways to decrease spending and increase income. Students track their spending habits, prepare a personal spending plan/budget to estimate monthly income and expenses, identify ways to decrease spending and increase income, and identify budget tools that will help them manage their money. This lesson also helps students identify ways they can save money and introduces savings options they can use to save toward their goals.

Maxed Out: Credit Cards

Students watch an incisive documentary about the credit card industry and then engage in lively discussion about the lessons from this film. *Maxed Out* takes viewers on a journey deep inside the American style of debt, where things seem fine as long as the minimum monthly payment arrives on time. With coverage that spans from small American towns all the way to the White House, the film shows how the modern financial industry really works, explains the true definition of "preferred customer" and tells us why the poor are getting poorer while the rich keep getting richer.

Credit Management & Credit Reports

In this class students learn about the purpose of credit cards and which type of credit is best for them. They learn to identify factors creditors look for when making credit decisions, and how to use a card responsibly. They also learn what steps to take when a credit card is lost or stolen. In addition, students learn what the purpose of a credit report is and how it is used. They learn how to order and read their own report, and how to build and repair their credit history.

Borrowing Basics

This course describes how credit works and helps students determine if they are ready to apply for credit. By the end of this class, students will be able to define credit; explain why it is important; distinguish between secured and unsecured loans; identify three types of loans; identify the costs associated with getting a loan; explain why it is important to be wary of rent-to-own, pay-day loan, and refund anticipation services; and determine if they are ready to apply for credit. During class students view a video called "Avoiding the Money Trap" that deals with how families become vulnerable to money traps and how to avoid them.