



FINANCIAL REALITY FAIR™

Get REAL Financial Reality Fair Overview

The Get REAL Financial Reality Fair, provided by the Financial Reality Foundation, is a project designed to teach financial literacy to high school seniors.

A Get REAL Financial Reality Fair is a fun, hands-on way for students and young adults to learn about managing personal finances. Community members and credit union staff assist students in making decisions about everyday expenses and provide financial advice to help them keep a budget.

At the fair, students get a feel for real-life budgeting. They approach the fair as if they had graduated from college, and have nothing – no car, no residence, no cell phone, etc. At the start of the fair, they are provided with a budget worksheet that includes a fictitious future life scenario and a monthly salary of a position in the career of their choice; some have a spouse that contribute to their income, some have children and other obligations such as student loans and credit card debt.

They are to complete the budget worksheet line by line according to their vision of their future life. They go through life, stopping by tables to purchase an apartment or home, a vehicle, cell phone plan, utilities, insurance, groceries, personal needs/hair care, fitness, clothing, fun activities, incidentals and savings. Along the way there are many temptations for additional spending, and students must learn to balance their wants and needs to stay within their income. In addition, they must consider their credit score for better purchasing power. Their last table is the “Wheel of Reality” where a random life event is applied to their budget worksheet.

The student’s goal is to stay within budget; in other words, still have money left in their pockets after paying all their bills for the month. Once they have budgeted for their expenses they will meet with a financial advisor to review and adjust.

An important feature of a financially responsible lifestyle is savings. In the financial reality fair experience, students are encouraged to save a minimum of 10% of their income. The financial advisors explore the importance of planning for future needs and preparing for future financial challenges through savings. The fair will tempt students to spend their income on “fun,” but the financial advisors will bring the focus back to saving and thrift practices.



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Host School Provides:

1. A multi-purpose room or small gymnasium to accommodate a minimum of 45 students or a maximum of 150 students.
2. A three-hour block of time to host the financial reality fair (two-hour event with a half hour set-up and half hour take-down).
3. 16 tables with two chairs per table.
4. PA system

Financial Reality Foundation Provides:

1. Turn-Key Get REAL Financial Reality Fair Package
 - Event Materials
2. Event Coordinator – Business Partner/Sponsor
 - Volunteers
 - Set-up
 - Event Materials
 - Budget Worksheets
 - Promotions/Prizes
3. PA system if not provided by host school

WANT MORE INFO? CHECK US OUT! WWW.FINANCIALREALITY.ORG

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