More than three-quarters of students report that they wish they had more help preparing for managing their personal finances. When youth enter the workforce without a basic understanding of financial literacy, they face significant issues, ranging from excessive credit card debt, too little or no savings, even insufficient retirement planning. The financial choices young adults make have a lasting effect on them. It can lead to a lifetime of debt and financial stress or economic stability.

Relevance

In today’s world, financial education is crucial. However, many young people are leaving high school lacking the basic fundamentals of financial literacy. Numerous studies conducted on American youths’ understanding of basic financial concepts consistently reveal that young people don’t possess adequate financial knowledge to be financially proficient in adulthood.

According to a survey from the Hartford Financial Services Group, less than one-quarter of students, about 24 percent, and only 20 percent of parents, say students are prepared to deal with the financial challenges awaiting them in the adult world.

More than three-quarters of students report that they wish they had more help preparing for managing their personal finances.
Financial Literacy Pays Off

With nearly 20% of Americans living beyond their means, education about personal finance is critical. Research indicates that teaching finance to students yield greater money management skills that will carry into adulthood.

Participant Quotes

“By participating in the Welcome to the Real World! program, my view of future life has changed quite a bit. I need to watch how I spend and strive to get the best degree so I can make lots of money!”

“It will help me know how to balance checking accounts, saving accounts, and my spending. Now I will know how to save and use checking accounts.”

“I understand that a job has a big influence on my economic freedom and that there are a lot of bills before fun money. Also, you can’t spend and spend. There is a limit.”

Spending Plan

65% increased their knowledge of how to create and follow a spending plan.

47% plan to create and follow a spending plan.

Savings

52% increased their knowledge of the importance of Paying Yourself First (Savings)

Prior to WTTRW!: 33% of participants have a savings account — after WTTRW!, an additional 44% plan to open a savings account.

47% intend to make deposits into their savings account on a regular basis.

Student Loan Debt

During the WTTRW! simulation students with careers requiring post-secondary education make a student loan payment equal to the amount required to pay off the loan in 10 years.

54% increased their knowledge of the effects on student loan debt on your future budget.