FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

H&R BLOCK
BUDGET CHALLENGE

WHAT IS THE H&R BLOCK BUDGET CHALLENGE?

The H&R Block Budget Challenge is a free teen financial literacy program in the form of an online game that simulates real life as an adult: paying bills, managing expenses, saving money, investing in retirement, paying taxes and more. Participants play classroom against classroom and students against students in this learning-by-doing simulation to win college scholarships.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?

The H&R Block Budget Challenge is FREE to all teachers and their students. The program is available to 100,000 students for the 2017-18 school year.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO PLAY H&R BLOCK BUDGET CHALLENGE?

Budget Challenge is open to students 14 years of age or older, enrolled full-time in grades nine through 12. Teachers must register classrooms to play Budget Challenge. Students may play one simulation per semester (Fall and Spring) but they are only eligible for prizing on their first attempt. Home school students may play one simulation per school year.

IS MY SCHOOL ELIGIBLE?

Budget Challenge is open to accredited public and private high schools as well as home study programs.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO PLAY H&R BLOCK BUDGET CHALLENGE?

Teachers simply visit hrbds.org to begin the classroom registration process. Class creation closes one week before the simulation start date, so be sure to sign up before it's too late.

SIMULATION	START DATE	END DATE	CREATE A CLASS CLOSE DATE
1	September 13	November 12	September 13
2	September 27	December 6	September 14
3	January 32	April 11	January 24
4	February 14	April 25	February 7

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IF MY CLASSROOM IS NOT ENROLLED IN BUDGET CHALLENGE?

Budget Challenge is limited to those students playing in a classroom registered by their teacher. Students and parents, be sure to tell teachers to enroll your class for the chance to win some big bucks to put towards your future.

I PLAYED THE BUDGET CHALLENGE LAST YEAR, DO I NEED TO REGISTER AGAIN?

No, teachers that participated in **previous years** can use their existing teacher account to participate by logging into hrblock.budgetchallenge.com. First time teachers may register at hrbds.org. Students can register at hrblock.budgetchallenge.com once they receive a class code from their teacher.

HOW DO I PLAY?

Think of Budget Challenge as a road test to personal finance. Students are in the drivers' seat as they immerse into the financial life of a recent college graduate who has been working for about six months. Each student gets a regular paycheck, a checking account, a 401(k) savings account and bills to pay throughout the simulation. By maximizing 401(k) savings, paying bills on time and responding correctly to quiz questions while avoiding fees and penalties, students increase their individual score.

HOW DO I WIN A STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP?

It's Budget Challenge's mission to help get students Real-World Ready and tackle financial life as an adult. If students can demonstrate the target levels of Behavior, Knowledge and Skill in the simulation then they are ready to manage their own personal finances in the real world.

At the end of each semester (Fall **2** simulation period and Spring **2** semester period), the five students with the highest overall Real-World Ready scores receive a $20,000 scholarship. That's a lot of dough that can be put towards tuition, books and more at any four-year accredited university.

THE REAL-WORLD READY SCORE IS DETERMINED BY:

- BEHAVIOR: Out of a 100% possible engagement score, calculated by login frequency, frequency of late bill payments and quiz participation.

- KNOWLEDGE: Out of a 100% total quiz score, calculated by how well students answer important financial questions.

- SKILL: Based on a possible 200% simulation score, calculated by how well the student saves, avoids late fees and performs on quizzes.

The winner is determined by the highest overall percentage out of a possible 400%. Students can see their Real-World Ready ranking from the Student Login tab on their home page.