OKMM
OKLAHOMA MONEY MATTERS

# BUDGETING LESSON PLAN

## ITEMS NEEDED

Items Needed:

- Print or share digital copies of OKMM's Your Money Matters High School Guide.
- Print copies of the Budgeting Activity Scenario Cards.
- Print copies of the Monthly Spending Plan chart.
- Optional: Access to a budgeting app or tool.

## OPENING DISCUSSION

- In your own words, what does it mean to follow a budget or spending plan today?
- What words, positive or negative, come to mind when you think about budgeting?
- Have you or someone you know used a budgeting app or tracked spending online?
  - If so, what was the experience like? Easy or challenging?

## CONTENT

Student responses will reveal how they view budgeting. Today, many students tend to think about budgeting in terms of:

- Mobile apps and digital payments
- Influences from social media and spending trends
- Increased costs of living (gas, food, subscriptions)

Some students may see budgeting as a helpful tool for planning ahead, while others may feel it is limiting or restrictive.

Throughout this lesson, students will understand:

- A budget is a flexible spending plan, not a restriction
- How to manage both digital and cash spending
- How to balance needs, wants, savings, and subscriptions
- The importance of planning for unexpected expenses and emergencies
- How to apply budgeting to real-life financial decisions

## INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY

Use pages 2-3 of OKMM's Your Money Matters High School Guide to introduce the basics of budgeting. After reading, guide you through a discussion using questions like:

- Do students feel pressure to "keep up" because of social media?
- Can you clearly distinguish between needs and wants?
- Are you setting aside at least 10% (or more) of your income for savings?
- Do you have emergency savings or money you can quickly access if needed?
- What big expenses are you planning for in the future (car, college, travel)?
- Would you be willing to try using a spending plan for one month with a digital tool?

## ACTIVITY

- Divide students into small groups.
- Provide each group with a scenario card and a spending plan template.
- Have groups create a monthly budget based on the details in their scenario.
- Students may use calculators or budgeting apps to complete their plan.

## GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Each group will share:

- A summary of their scenario
- Their completed budget plan
- Their strategy for saving money

Encourage students to give constructive peer feedback to help improve each group's plan.

**To learn more about OKMM, visit our website OklahomaMoneyMatters.org.**