Title of Lesson/Subject: Lifestyle versus Salary Reality Check
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Time Allotment: 30-45 minutes

Grade Level or Target Audience: Grades 7-12

ND Standards Competencies:
8. The student develops and uses consumer economic skills.
   By the end of Grade 12 or at exit, the student demonstrates the ability to:
   a) apply economic concepts as they relate to wants and needs.
   b) manage money and credit.
   c) recognize value and its relationship to price.
11. The student demonstrates effective use of the Internet and other electronic resources.
   By the end of Grade 12 or at exit, the student demonstrates the ability to:
   a) use a variety of search software programs that find information on a wide range of topics, products, etc.
   b) evaluate and cite web sites in research.

Key Economic Concepts: Matching lifestyle choices with the income/salary earned (Living within your means)

Brief Description: Use Internet sites to assess students’ desired lifestyles versus their projected income/salary from their desired careers and location to live.

Learner Objectives:
1) Students will access the Internet, and implement the given websites to obtain the information needed to complete the JumpStart Reality Check, the Salary Wizard, and Salary Calculator.
2) Students will compare the desired lifestyle results with the income needed to maintain that lifestyle to the actual income projected for the career of their choice and the location they choose to live.
3) Students will analyze their results, and thus decide if they will be able to support themselves (in their desired lifestyle) with the career and location they choose.

Introduction: Typically, we want the best of everything and we don’t want to work too hard for it. Right now you live at home with mom and dad and they support you, but what about after high school, or after college? Welcome to reality. Will you be able to live the way you want and where you want?

Materials Needed: Worksheet to complete

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed: Computers with Internet connection

Lesson Outline: Introduction, followed by Objectives, hand out Worksheet, allow students to access Internet to complete the Worksheet, followed by evaluation and discussion of the results.

Resources: Worksheet with listed websites to research

Activities: Assessing lifestyle choices, choosing possible career, Internet assignment to obtain desired information, with analysis of results.

Assignment: Complete “Lifestyle versus Salary Reality Check Worksheet”
Evaluation Plan: Assess worksheets to see projected figures for lifestyle versus income. Discuss results with students. Can you live the way you want in the career of your choice? Will you be able to live in your desired location? Will you need to adjust your lifestyle or find a career where you can earn more money?
Lifestyle versus Salary Reality Check

Name ___________________________

1) www.jumpstart.org/realitycheck

- Use this site to determine what kind of income you will need to earn in order to have the lifestyle of your choice.
- Read the instructions and click “Enter” to begin the Reality Check
- Choose options in each category and click “Reality Check” at the end.
- Record the wages you must make to support your lifestyle: $__________________/hour
  $__________________/week
  (weekly pay x 52 weeks/year) $__________________/year
- Record the possible jobs that would support your lifestyle: ________________________
  ________________________
  ________________________
- What level of education will you need to support this lifestyle? ____________________
- Is that the level of education that you intend to pursue? __________

2) www.salary.com

- Use this site to compare salary information for Dickinson with another location of your choice. (variances in pay)
- Under “Salary Wizard,” choose the Job Category and Zip Code (58601) and click “Search.”
- Select the job title closest to what you intend to pursue as a career. Click “View Basic Range” (free).
  - If you are offered other info – choose “NO – not right now”
- Record the Salary information below.
  - Scroll down and find “Compare Base Salary to” and Click “New Location” (use the same Job Category and job title), but choose a different State/Metro area (a place that you would like to live in the future) and click “Go.”
  - OR you can start over and put in the Zip Code of your choice
    - Use http://www.getzips.com/city.htm to help you find the correct Zip Code

Job category ________________________________
Job title ________________________________

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<th>Results for 58601</th>
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- Will the job pay enough in Dickinson to meet the lifestyle you recorded in Step 1? ______
- Will the job pay enough in the new place that you would like to live? ______
3) www.homefair.com/homefair/calc/salcalc.html

- Use this side to compare how the Cost of Living would change from Dickinson, ND, to another location of your choice
- Select “Moving From” and “Moving To” states, then click “Show Cities”
- Choose the cities of your choice, then change “Housing Preference” to “rent,” and click “Calculate”
- If you make $_____________________ living in Dickinson, ND, you would need to make $_____________________ living in ____________________