



GRADE 6+

Student Loans 101 | Lesson Plan

What are different types of student loans and how do they work?

Students learn about student loans, the types available, and what to consider when taking out a student loan.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what a student loan is.
- Distinguish the differences between different types of loans.
- Define key terms associated with student loans, including private, federal, PLUS, subsidized, and unsubsidized loans.
- Discover actions to take to consider student loans responsibly in the future.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Private loan:** a loan funded by a private bank
- **Federal loan:** a loan funded by the government
- **Subsidized:** a loan with interest paid by the Department of Education while the student is in school
- **Unsubsidized:** a loan with interest that builds up while the student is in school
- **PLUS loan:** a loan available to graduate and professional students as well as parents of undergraduate students

Educational Standards: Financial Literacy, Decision Making, Personal Responsibility, Personal Finance

What You'll Need

- Video: *Ca\$h Cour\$e: Student Loans 101*



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Ca\$h Cour\$e: Student Loans 101* ([Download PDF](#))

- Classroom whiteboard and dry-erase markers (You may use a technology solution if available).

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *Let's plan a class trip. Where should we go if money were no object?* Allow students to share answers.
2. Say: *If our trip was too expensive, I might not be able to pay for it and may need to borrow money from one of the other teachers. Who should I ask? Do you think he/she would expect our class to repay the money?* Allow students to share answers.
3. Say: *When it comes to college, sometimes you need to borrow money to pay tuition. The government or a bank might act in the same way as the teacher from whom we would borrow our money for our trip. Would they expect to be repaid when we borrow their money?* Allow students to share answers.

Watch and Apply: (25 mins.)

1. State: *We will watch this video and see what we can learn about student loans, then answer some questions to see what we've learned.*
2. Watch the video, *Ca\$h Cour\$e: Student Loans 101*.
3. Distribute the *Ca\$h Cour\$e: Student Loans 101* worksheet. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
4. After the assessment (you may choose to collect or not), work through the questions as a class and discuss any areas where students needed help, still needed to complete it, or had questions.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *What are some things you learned that you did not know?* Allow students to share responses.
2. Complete the list on the dry-erase board that was made before the video.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (10-15 mins.)

- Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.
- Or, have students watch the video at home and use the worksheet as a quick quiz the next day in class.