

## Unit 1: World of Work



### Day 1: Reality Check

#### Objective:

Students will be motivated to gather career information in a variety of ways; one of which is financial independence.

#### TEKS:

- Exploring Careers: 4.C, E; 5.A, B
- Career Portals: 6.A, B

#### Materials:

- *Reality Check* Online Budget Calculator website: [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com)

#### Instructions:

This lesson is to motivate students to want to learn. It is important to allow students to work through this website independently, allowing them to choose whatever items they want, whether or not it is realistic. This is a safe way for the students to make mistakes with their spending choices. After they are finished, point out the reality of their spending. Later in this course we will bring them back to this activity and show them how to develop an appropriate budget.

#### Activities:

- Have students go to the *Reality Check* budget calculator at [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com)
- Allow the students to work through the site choosing anything they desire, where to live, what to drive, eat, wear, and buy.
- Once they have gone through the activity and built a budget, have them see which careers match their current education level.
- For most students there will be no matching occupations. Discuss with the class the need to prioritize wants and needs and the need to do without some things to allow for the necessities of life. Discuss with the students that as they get older and acquire more Post-Secondary Education, their job opportunities will increase, along with their incomes.
- Allow students to look at occupations that match their education aspirations.

#### Conclusion:

Talk to students about the need to make informed career decisions. Only one part of that decision has to do with salary. As they go through the course, students will address all the labor market information that is involved with making informed decisions. While money is important, it is not the only reason for choosing a career.