

## Financial Aid Choices Game

**Goal:** Through this “game board” activity, players will be introduced to financial aid information and ideas that will assist them in planning to pay for college.

### **Materials Needed:**

- Game Board Sheet like Chutes and Ladders (google Chutes and Ladders template and you can easily find out online) -if the whole class is playing, you can divide into groups of four and give each group a Game Board Sheet.
- Enough game pieces/pegs for all players.
- Cut out the square cards, these will serve as your playing cards which will direct/guide your game (if whole class is playing, give each group of four a set of cards).

### **Presenter**

#### **Introduction:**

- Inform group/class that they will play a board game which will introduce them to ways in which they can begin thinking/planning for paying college.
- Explain that many students believe that they can't go to college because they do not have the money to pay.
- Explain that there are many ways to pay for college and that this game will get them started to learn about these ways and things they can do.

#### **Play the Game:**

Decide who is going first and go clock-wise around the group.

When it is your turn you will pick a card and follow its instructions. After every turn, it is important to discuss why the player is being asked to move forward or backwards:

“You are worried because you think you can only apply to scholarships if you have good grades, so you ask a teacher for help.”

Move forward 2 spaces

This student moved forward because rather than not doing anything and continuing to worry, the student decided to ask his teacher for help.

The first to reach the end of the game board wins!

#### **Debrief:**

Ask students if they have any general questions regarding financial aid.

Provide students with web resources.

Remind students that finances should never keep them from going to college, encourage them to talk to their high school counselor.

<p>You decide to check what new scholarships are on the internet.</p> <p><b>Move forward 1 space.</b></p>	<p>Your counselor has just given you a scholarship application because you are of Asian descent and you apply for it.</p> <p><b>Move forward 5 spaces</b></p>	<p>The deadline for Financial aid has passed; as a result, you decided not to apply because it is too late.</p> <p><b>Stay where you are.</b></p>
<p>You have found a scholarship where you have to draw a picture and you know that this is a perfect scholarship for your friend because he loves drawing. So you give to him.</p> <p><b>Move Forward 3 spaces.</b></p>	<p>You are worried because you think you can only apply to scholarships if you have good grades, so you ask a teacher for help.</p> <p><b>Move forward 2 spaces</b></p>	<p>Your parents have told you that you need to look for scholarships because financial aid is not going to pay for everything. Instead of listening them, you decide to play games on the computer.</p> <p><b>Move back 4 spaces.</b></p>
<p>One of your friends is afraid to apply for scholarships because she is an illegal immigrant, but you tell her that there are some scholarships for undocumented students on the MADELF website.</p> <p><b>Move forward 4 spaces.</b></p>	<p>You received a phone call to go for an interview about a scholarship but you forgot what time the interview was scheduled for.</p> <p><b>Stay where you are.</b></p>	<p>Your parents do not speak English, so you decided to find a scholarship program that requires you to be bilingual.</p> <p><b>Move forward 2 spaces.</b></p>
<p>You've never entered the science fair, but you decided to enter because you could win a scholarship.</p> <p><b>Move forward 4 spaces</b></p>	<p>You have not applied for scholarships so you decide to get a loan instead.</p> <p><b>Move forward 2 spaces.</b></p>	<p>You forgot to send an essay with your writing scholarship and now you have to wait a whole year to apply to the scholarship again.</p> <p><b>Stay where you are.</b></p>

<p>Your teacher recommends that you try out for the school play because you could be eligible to apply for theatre scholarships. Even though you like acting, you decided not to do it because you don't think it is cool.</p> <p><b>Move back 1 space.</b></p>	<p>The counselor tells you that McDonald's is giving out scholarships to students in need but you decided not to apply because you do not believe him.</p> <p><b>Move back 1 space.</b></p>	<p>Your friends tell you that they do not need good grades to get a scholarship so they decide not to study anymore and you do that same.</p> <p><b>Move back 3 spaces.</b></p>
<p>You go and ask a teacher for a letter of recommendation for your scholarship program application.</p> <p><b>Move forward 3 spaces.</b></p>	<p>You decide to give a classroom presentation about the different kinds of scholarships and how there is one for everyone.</p> <p><b>Move forward 3 spaces.</b></p>	<p>Counselors are giving an excellent presentation about financial aid but you decide to go to the movies with your friends.</p> <p><b>Move back 5 spaces.</b></p>
<p>You volunteer to help a youth soccer team after school because you know there are scholarships for volunteering.</p> <p><b>Move forward 4 spaces.</b></p>	<p>You join the public library summer reading program in order to improve grades and be more eligible for scholarships.</p> <p><b>Move forward 2 spaces.</b></p>	<p>The store near you is offering a scholarship but you cannot apply because you have no extracurricular experience, so you decide to lie on the application.</p> <p><b>Move back 5 spaces.</b></p>
<p>You spend your summer sitting in front of your computer playing games when you could look for scholarships.</p> <p><b>Move back 2 spaces</b></p>	<p>You were having trouble filling out the FAFSA application. As a result, you did not send the application.</p> <p><b>Move back 3 spaces.</b></p>	<p>You decide to apply only to one scholarship because if you win it, your entire education will be paid for.</p> <p><b>Move back 1 space.</b></p>

<p>You and your parents had decided to save money for college but you change your mind and decide that getting a Playstation 3 is more important than saving money for school.</p> <p>Move back 2 spaces.</p>	<p>You decide to look for a job because education is too expensive.</p> <p>Stay where you are.</p>	<p>You missed the application deadline for the scholarship you really wanted.</p> <p>Stay where you are.</p>
<p>You hung out with friends instead of applying for a loan.</p> <p>Move back 2 spaces.</p>	<p>You know loans are important to students but yet you do not know what they are, how to get them or where to find information about them.</p> <p>Move back 4 spaces.</p>	<p>Because of too many cuts and absences, you are not able to participate at your graduation ceremony.</p> <p>Stay where you are.</p>
<p>You're not sure where to find help on how to pay for college, so you look on the internet to find more information.</p> <p>Move forward 3 spaces.</p>	<p>It is time to apply for scholarships but instead you decide that your parents are going to pay for all of your education so you don't apply at all.</p> <p>Move back 3 spaces.</p>	<p>Your parents tell you that they will never be able to afford college so you give up on school and get bad grades.</p> <p>Move back 4 spaces.</p>