

# MONEY SMART WEEK® ILLINOIS

# MONEYSMART KID 2012

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



In support of Money Smart Week® 2012 Illinois, taking place April 21-28 – the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and its partner organizations are presenting the

Money Smart Kid Essay Contest, sponsored by Busey Bank. Students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to answer the Money Smart Question for their age group (see below) with an essay of 300 words or less. Six finalists will be selected to attend the Money Smart Kick-Off Breakfast on April 20 and one student will be named this year's Money Smart Kid for Champaign County. The winner will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Busey Bank. A runner-up will be awarded a \$500 scholarship sponsored by Busey Bank. In addition, a number of finalists will receive a \$50 savings bond from Economic Awareness Council.

Students may apply individually or through their class. Teachers are encouraged to use the Money Smart Kid contest as a classroom activity. Participation in the Money Smart Kid contest is an excellent applied writing practice for students. All classes who participate will receive bags of shredded money from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for each participating student.

## THE 2012 QUESTION IS:

**Give an example of when it is wise to borrow money and when it is not. What factors do you need to consider to help you make a responsible choice? Please be sure to discuss the concepts of decision making and opportunity cost in your answer.**

## TIMELINE

DATE	ACTIVITY	ORGANIZATIONS
January 31	Essay contest question and guidelines released	Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Money Smart Week 2012 Partners
April 5	Deadline for essay submission	Teachers, Students, Parents/Guardians
April 11-13	Candidates Interviewed	Money Smart Kid Committee
April 16	Notify winners, make arrangements	Money Smart Kid Committee
April 20	Announce winner at Kickoff Breakfast	Money Smart Kid Committee

## MONEY SMART KID COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karilyn Sonka	Economic Awareness Council (Chair)
Megan Puzey	Office of Public Engagement
Rita McCoy	Office of Public Engagement
Dennis K. Donaldson	Busey Bank

## GUIDELINES

### Candidates Must:

- Be a student in grades 5-8 in their school.
- Have knowledge of money management skills (decision-making related to spending and saving, investing, use of credit, etc.) appropriate for their age and grade level
- Demonstrate how they practice good money management skills in their daily lives
- Be able to “think on their feet”—responding to questions from business leaders and media
- Be articulate—able to speak in front of large groups and cameras, and respond well to questions
- Live in the Champaign County

### TO APPLY

- Student must be recommended by a teacher using the attached form. (*Note: official school sponsorship is not required*)
- Student must have parent or guardian permission to apply and participate.
- Student must write an essay (300 words or less) on the assigned topic.
- Essays must be typed on plain white paper, double-spaced. The MoneySmart Kid Application Form must be attached to the essay pages.
- The essay must be the work of the student submitting the essay.
- The application form must be signed by the teacher and a parent/guardian.
- No teacher may sign more than three recommendations.
- The essay and application should be mailed, faxed or emailed as a PDF or scanned attachment to:

**Rita McCoy**  
Office of Public Engagement  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
308 Swanlund Administration Building, MC 304  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820 USA  
TEL: 217-244-4121 / FAX: 217-244-4121  
Email: [rmccoy@illinois.edu](mailto:rmccoy@illinois.edu)

All essays become the property of the Money Smart Kid Committee and may be used by Committee members to promote financial literacy. **All submissions must be received by April 5, 2012.**

## APPLICATION

**STUDENT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **AGE** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHER** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

(IF APPLICABLE)

I vouch that the attached essay is fully the work of \_\_\_\_\_

(STUDENT NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TEACHER SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

I vouch that the attached essay is fully and solely the work of my child,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT NAME)

and I give permission for him/her to participate in the activities of Money Smart Week 2012,  
including consent to release photos and personal information for media and promotional purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)