

This resource is to serve as guidance for how the educator can utilize PayGrade while continuing to implement YE with fidelity.

Profile

> **Partner Organization:** PayGrade

> **Website:** <https://paygrade.io>

> **Brief Description:**

- Transforming classrooms into economies - PayGrade is an online virtual bank and investment simulation. On PayGrade, students experience real world money situations and navigate the ins and outs of everything related to personal finance like saving, budgeting, paying bills, earning income, investing and more.
- Specifically, for YE, PayGrade equips YE facilitators to virtually manage YE currency and host auctions.

> **Cost:** While PayGrade's BASIC version is free, through our partnership agreement with PayGrade, YE facilitators will have access to the PayGrade PLUS teacher accounts with unlimited student accounts for free this school year.

How to Get Started

> View this "[Getting Started](#)" demo video to learn more.

> Then view this "[PLUS video](#)" to see how additional features could be beneficial to your classroom.

> If you feel like the PLUS teacher account would provide the greatest value to you and your students, email Hello@youthentrepreneurs.org.

Integration with YE

> **Four Pillars**

- Foundational Values in Focus
 - Opportunity
 - Responsibility
 - Be Principled

> **SEL Skills in Focus**

- While each of the SEL core competencies will be practiced by using PayGrade to incentivize students for exhibiting positive behaviors, Paygrade is especially valuable for Self-Management and Responsible Decision Making. As students earn currency, or perhaps watch their peers earn currency and engage in auctions, self-motivation and self-discipline oftentimes increases. Responsible Decision-Making is reinforced when students determine whether to engage in the market, which behaviors to display, whether to save, pool or spend their money, etc.

> **Currency and Auctions**

- PayGrade makes incentivizing positive behavior easy whether in-person or virtual! No more having to keep track of physical YE dollars with PayGrade. PayGrade is customizable, allowing facilitators

to consistently pay students for exhibiting the Foundational Values, possessing an entrepreneurial mindset, engaging in the market, creating value, etc. As students learn about markets via YE, PayGrade transforms a learning environment into an economy, whether in-person or virtual.

> **Transformational Mindset**

- Currency and auctions is one YE's four core pillars leading to a transformational mindset, and PayGrade allows for consistent threading of currency throughout all activities. Transformation will result as students earn money for taking advantage of opportunities, risk taking, seeking knowledge, experimenting and determining how to create value for both themselves and others.

Suggested Scope and Sequence

- > PayGrade can be used throughout the entire YE experience. It is important to introduce Currency and Auctions early, and PayGrade allows educators to incentivize early with ease. Anytime a YE activity references YE dollars, bonds, currency, etc., facilitators can utilize PayGrade. Don't limit incentivizing students during activities; however, feel free to pay them anytime an educator wants to reinforce positive behaviors.

Debrief Questions

- > How has currency and auctions changed the way students are looking at learning, school, work, or how they interact with their peers or adults?
- Are they becoming more or less aware of opportunities all around them?
- > Does the YE/PayGrade classroom economy make you more or less free?
- > Has the classroom economy changed how you feel about success? Failure?
- How has this experience changed how you think about your future? Your past?
- > Why is being principled important within currency and auctions?
- > By participating in an economy, what have you learned about yourself and others in regard to the Foundational Values of Be Principled and Knowledge?