CPA ONTARIO

6 Money Moves Every High School and College Student Should Know



Coming from a Harvard student and nonprofit founder.

1. Make Your Skills Pay Off

Your time is your biggest asset. How can you translate skills and hobbies you have into an income stream?

- Explore part-time jobs, paid internships, tutoring, babysitting, freelancing, or selling your creations.
- Look beyond a paycheck: Will this opportunity help you build skills, connections, or experience?
- Don't underestimate your hobbies! Photography, art, writing, coding, and social media can all become income opportunities.

2. Save First, Spend Second

Financial freedom starts with having options.

- Try saving 10-30% of your earnings, allowance, or monetary gifts. Keep track of it through a budget (can be on Google Sheets, Excel, Notion, etc).
- Set specific savings goals: a new laptop, college expenses, travel, or an emergency fund.
- Before buying something, ask yourself: "Do I want this more than what I'm saving for?"

3. Know Where Your Money Goes

Small purchases add up faster than you think.

- Track your spending for a week. Include coffee runs, food delivery, shopping, and subscriptions!
- Once a month, review what you spent and identify purchases that weren't worth it.
- Set a realistic budget that leaves room for both necessities and fun.

4. Prepare for College and Independence

Moving out from home means a lot more independence, but also responsibility!

- Budget for housing, meal plans, groceries, transportation, textbooks, and everyday expenses.
- Apply for scholarships and grants early, even smaller ones. They add up!
- Research student discounts, financial aid, and campus resources before paying full price.

5. Start Investing in Future You

Time can be one of your biggest financial advantages.

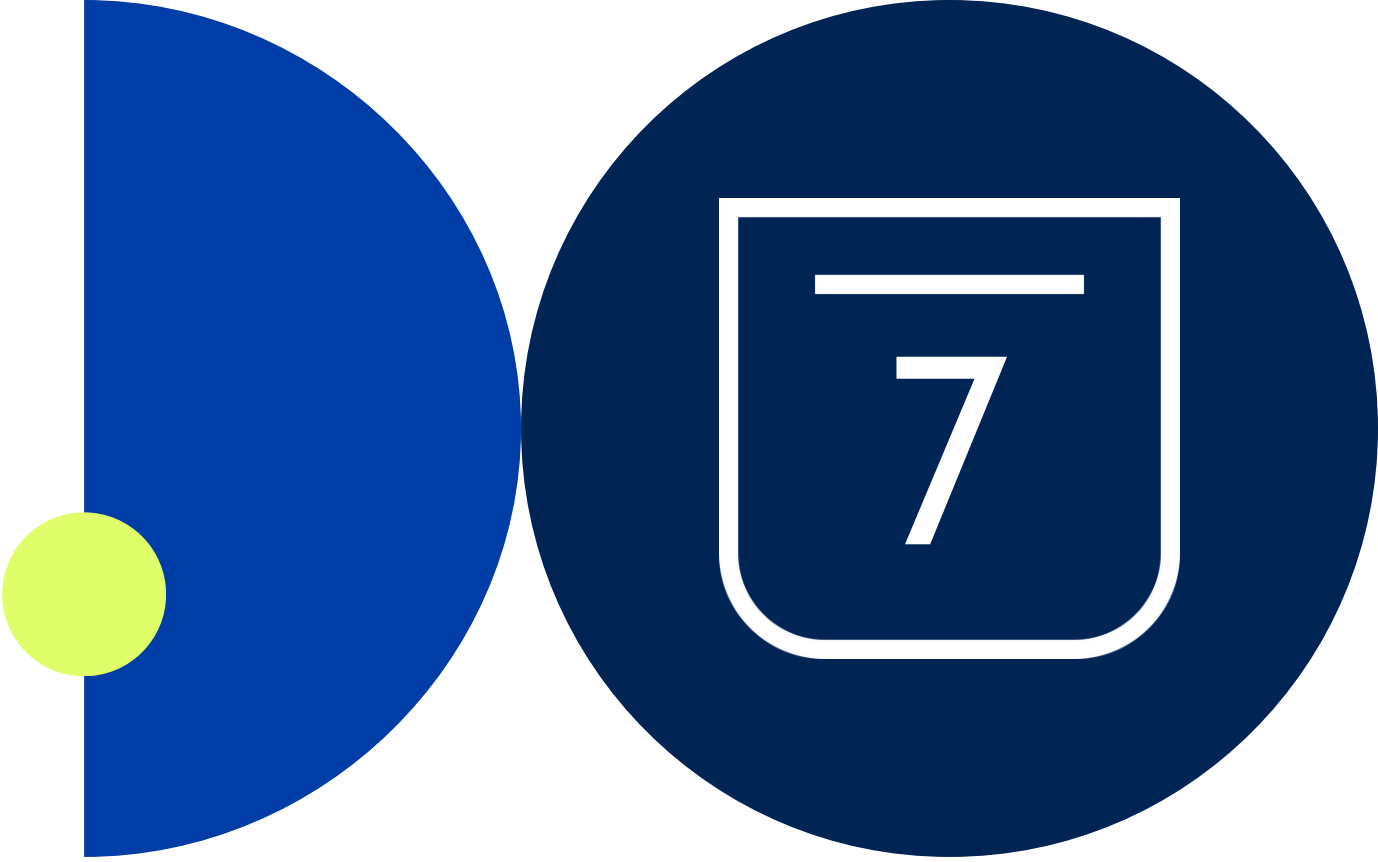
- Learn how compound growth works: money invested early has more time to potentially grow.
- Look into a **Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA)**, which offers tax-free qualified withdrawals.
- Start with financial education, and understand risks before investing. You don't need a lot of money to begin learning!

6. Turn Your Passion Into Impact

Find ways to give back to your community!

- **Start local:** Host bake sales, car washes, tutoring fundraisers, or community events.
- **Grow your reach:** Partner with local businesses, launch online fundraisers, or organize a product sale.
- **Think bigger:** Research grants, youth leadership awards, corporate matching opportunities, and partnerships with organizations that share your mission.

Remember: Start with the resources you have. A clear mission, creativity, and community support can take you further than you think.



Your 7-Day Money Challenge

- Track every dollar you spend this week.
- Save your first $5, $10, or 10% of your next paycheck.
- Find one scholarship, paid opportunity, or student discount.
- Research one investment concept you've never learned about.
- Brainstorm one way to use your skills to help your community.

The Big Takeaway

Money isn't just about what you can buy. It's about what you can build, experience, and give back.

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