

The Pueblo Chieftain

Pueblo charter school is first in Colorado to launch new financial literacy app



[James Bartolo](#)

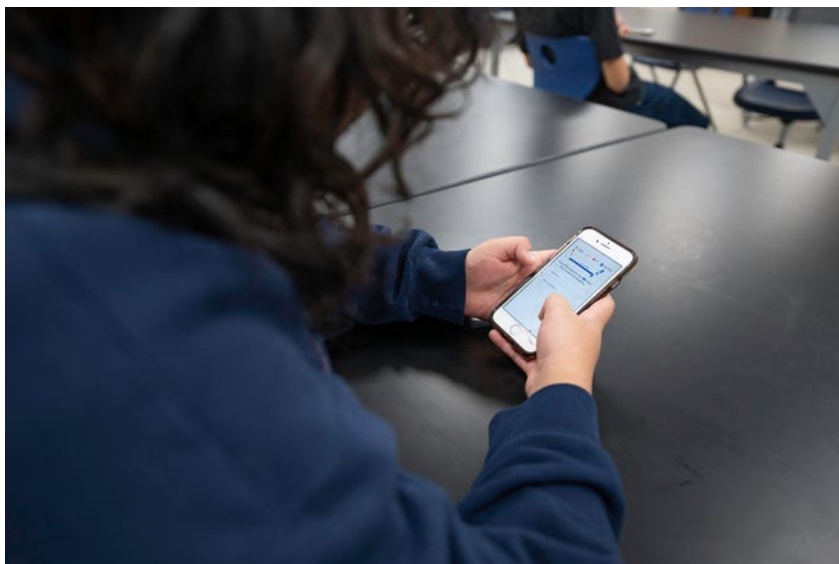
Pueblo Chieftain

A new app teaching financial literacy to Colorado teens and young adults is getting its start in Pueblo at the Chavez K-12 Preparatory Academy.

Money 360 is a version of the award-winning digital financial app [Zogo](#), developed for Premier Members Credit Union and designed to benefit Colorado. It covers 54 topics related to financial literacy including information about opening a bank account and saving for retirement, along with more obscure topics like cryptocurrency.

Jeffrey Kash, assistant vice president of community relations with Premier Members Credit Union, compared the look and feel of Money 360 to that of the popular language-learning app Duolingo.

"You complete these little modules, much like you would a language lesson within Duolingo," Kash said. "It's interactive, it's fun, there are leaderboards — all the while you're building up your XP points."



Money 360 begins with DHPH seniors

Chavez Huerta holds the distinction as the "inaugural school" to adopt the Money 360 curriculum. Theresa Martinez-Blasing, a counselor at Chavez Huerta, said the school is currently teaching the Money 360 curriculum to Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School seniors.

"We want to see how successful it is with the senior class and then we will slowly work it into the other classes... We wanted to start with the seniors first, because they are the class that's going to be out in the real world within the next six months," Martinez-Blasing said.

In addition to being an early adopter of the app, Chavez Huerta played a role in its development. In the original version of the app, students could earn digital "pineapples" which could be traded in for gift cards and other rewards.

However, with recommendation from Chavez Huerta, pineapples can now be donated in \$5 increments to Colorado charities in Money 360. Charities currently involved with the app include the Latin American Education Foundation, Mental Health Colorado and Mile High United Way.



App developers have plans to expand across Front Range

While Chavez Huerta is the inaugural school to adopt Money 360, the Broomfield-based Premier Members Credit Union has branches throughout Colorado's Front Range and its plan is to expand the app accordingly.

Money 360 may only be accessed through a QR code provided by Premier Members Credit Union. With the unique QR code, app administrators are able to report information about usage rates, demographics and popular modules.

About a dozen schools and other organizations are currently considering the adoption of the app, but as of Oct. 3, Chavez Huerta was the "first and only" organization to adopt it, Kash said.

More education news: [Pueblo D60 candidates discuss school safety, mental health, at Thursday forum](#)

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