



*It's never too  
early to start  
learning about money.*

Money management solutions for students of all ages



*from Member Access Pacific,  
a credit union's partner in developing real-world solutions for money management.*

# Money management solutions for students of all ages



*“By almost any measure, today’s schoolchildren are ill-equipped by our educational system to understand personal finance and make their way in the modern financial world.”*

*- President’s Advisory Council on Financial Literacy*

**I**n a recent survey by the financial firm Charles Schwab, a majority of teenagers were found to be lacking in the basic skills needed for sound money management. The *2007 Teens & Money Survey* found that only 34% knew how to balance a checkbook. Just 26% said they understood how credit card fees worked and less than a quarter (24%) could tell whether check-cashing fees were good or bad.

In a world where electronic financial transactions are fast becoming the norm, having a proper understanding of money management has never been more important. Credit, Debit, and Prepaid Cards dominate the world of electronic financial transactions. At any age, these plastic cards can tempt the user to over spend, but for teens and younger children the consequences of these temptations may not be readily apparent.

As kids get older and start exerting their independence, their lives get more expensive too – there are activities at school, going out with friends, and when they start to drive there’s the need for gas money. For parents wondering whether their child is ready for plastic, the questions are:

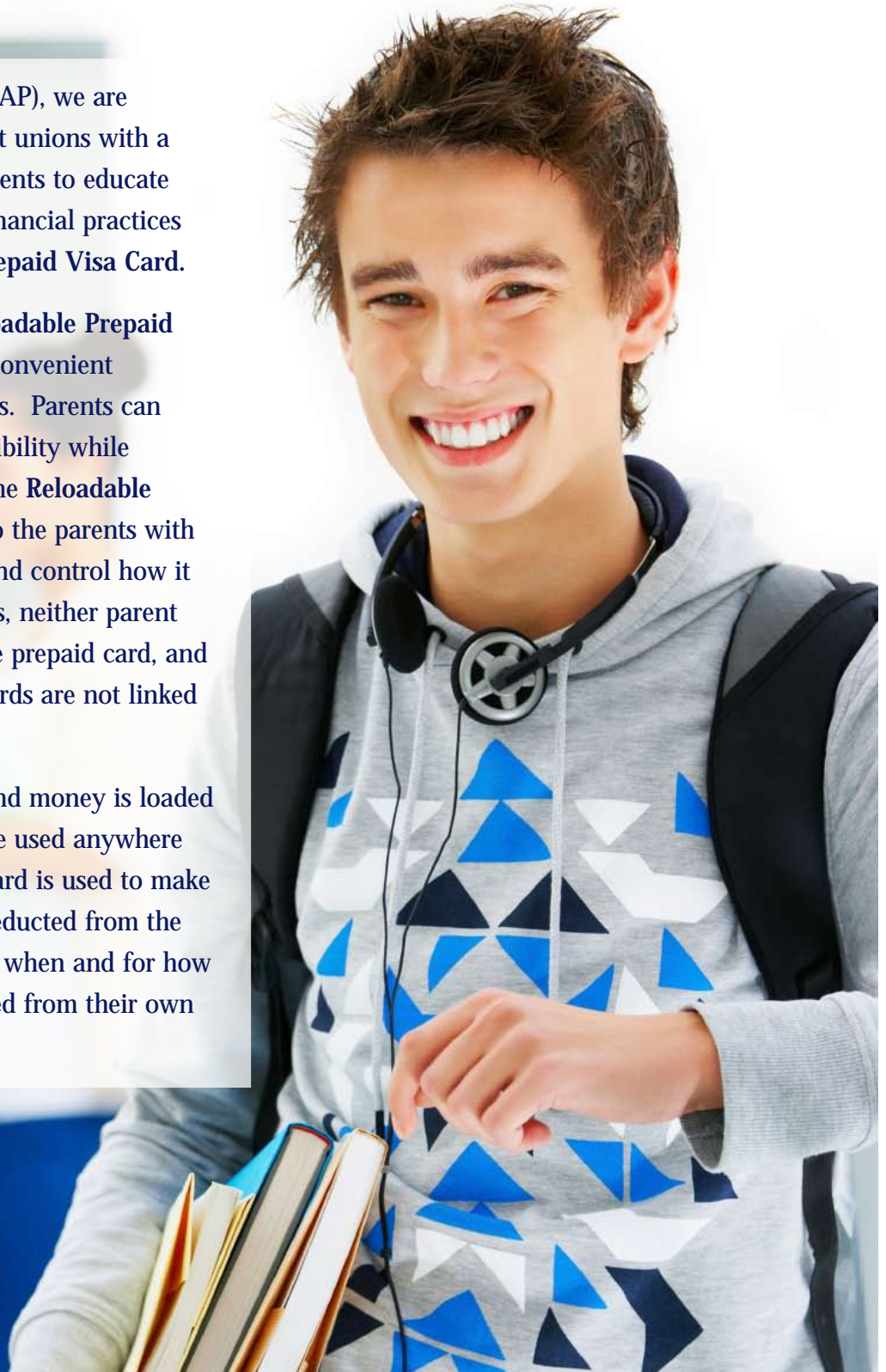
- (1) is my child is ready and
- (2) can this plastic be used as teaching-tool to manage money responsibly.

# A “plastics” solution for financial literacy

At Member Access Pacific (MAP), we are committed to providing credit unions with a realistic teaching-tool for parents to educate their children about sound financial practices with the **MAP Reloadable Prepaid Visa Card**.

When used wisely, **MAP Reloadable Prepaid Visa Cards** can be a secure, convenient alternative to cash and checks. Parents can teach teens financial responsibility while monitoring their spending. The **Reloadable Prepaid Visa Card** belongs to the parents with the tools to monitor its use and control how it is funded. Unlike credit cards, neither parent or child take on debt with the prepaid card, and unlike debit cards, prepaid cards are not linked to a checking account.

Once the card is purchased and money is loaded onto the card, the card can be used anywhere Visa is accepted. When the card is used to make a purchase, that amount is deducted from the card balance. Parents control when and for how much the card can be reloaded from their own personal checking account.





## Benefits of using the Reloadable Prepaid Visa Card

**A VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL TOOL.** Parents can teach their teen how to track spending and budget amounts on the card responsibly.

**FULL PARENTAL CONTROL.** Teens can only spend the money loaded on the card. Parents can load funds from their personal checking account, even in an emergency or if the child is away from home. They can even schedule allowances, weekly or monthly. Parents can access all transaction activity details on card through the online monitoring tool.

**SAFER THAN CASH.** If the card is stolen or lost, the parent or teen can call to freeze the account so that it can't be used. The remaining money can be transferred to a new card, paying nothing for unauthorized purchases.

**CONVENIENT AND FLEXIBLE.** Teens can make internet purchases without having to use their parent's credit cards. It ends those endless runs to the ATM when the teen needs money at the last minute.

**FUNDS LOADED ARE NCUSIF INSURED.**

## Ideas for using the Reloadable Prepaid Visa Card wisely

**T**he prepaid card should be used wisely. Parents should clearly explain what teens can and can't use the card for – if they would not spend cash out of their pocket for something, then they shouldn't use their card. Parents should use the prepaid card as a teaching tool for the proper use of plastics, preparing teens for the time when they are old enough to get a credit or debit card of their own.

To help overcome the image of “free money” that teens tend to associate with plastics, it is wise to set up a system to track their purchases. MAP's Reloadable Prepaid Visa Cards offer the ability to track transactions online, but it is also a good idea for teens to keep all sales receipts after making a purchase so that they can track their ongoing balance. Keeping all sales receipts can also help prevent a thief from stealing card information. Together, teens and parent should review e-statements and online transactions periodically so they can monitor spending habits and check for mistakes.

When used wisely, MAP's Reloadable Prepaid Visa Cards can be a good idea, but always review the disclosures provided by the credit union so both teens and parents can be aware of the fees associated with using the card. For example, if the card is used to get cash from an ATM, there will be an associated fee. And always contact the card issuer immediately to cancel the card, if it is lost or stolen.

## Why not try using plastic for allowances?

MAP offers "No Fee" and "Low Fee" card options, including no-fee reloads (originating from a credit union account), free e-statements, and free online account management. Possibly the lowest priced prepaid card on the market. MAP's signature-only prepaid card has no activation fee or maintenance fees during card use. Terms and conditions apply.

## MAP's Reloadable Prepaid Visa Card is available at your local credit union

Your local credit union is dedicated to providing financial literacy for youth to help prepare them for the real world and improve the quality of their lives. As part of this initiative, participating credit unions use the MAP Reloadable Prepaid Visa Cards as a teaching tool for parents and teens. MAP Prepaid and Card Processing programs offer credit unions a combination of features and network options – PIN, POS and ATM and surcharge-free network solutions all joined under the universal brand of VISA. We encourage you to contact one of our participating credit unions to learn more about the available financial education programs.

All City Credit Union  
Amicus Federal Credit Union  
CALCOE Federal Credit Union  
Community Credit Union  
Community Healthcare Federal Credit Union  
Connection Credit Union  
Generations Credit Union  
Longshore Federal Credit Union  
MountainCrest Credit Union  
Pacific Northwest Credit Union  
Seattle Credit Union Center  
TwinStar Credit Union  
Verity Credit Union  
Waterfront Federal Credit Union



# A partner with educators and parents, MAP is committed to sustainable financial literacy

As a Credit Union Service Organization, Member Access Pacific (MAP) is committed to forwarding the credit union legacy of promoting financial literacy for all ages. Promoting financial literacy has been a primary mission of credit unions since they were established. Edward A. Filene, the father of the American credit union movement in 1908, put it candidly: "Credit unions are educational institutions." Credit union volunteers have been teaching in classrooms for decades and setting up branch offices in schools to encourage students' interest and involvement in financial education. It was credit unions that formed the National Youth Involvement Board (NYIB) to focus on youth marketing, youth education, and youth leadership.

To help today's youths and consumers of all ages become financially savvy, Member Access Pacific (MAP), in association with Visa, partners with leading consumer advocates, educators and

financial institutions in a wide-reaching program to improve the nation's financial skills -- Practical Money Skills for Life.

## Practical Money Skills for Life™

Visa has developed a free Web site (available through MAP's Web site at [mapacific.com/resource-center/PracticalMoneySkills.php](http://mapacific.com/resource-center/PracticalMoneySkills.php)) designed to help educators, parents and students practice better money management for life. In addition to providing online tools and resources via the Web site, Visa has created free classroom material that educators can use to teach personal finance. Available online or in a binder format, the classroom curriculum is free. It offers a teacher's guide, student worksheets and quizzes and interactive brain-teasers that can be played by students via the Web or from a CD-ROM. Practical Money Skills for Life is educator-developed and educator-approved. In fact, at the recent National Education Association's Expo, more than 94 percent of the educators surveyed graded the program an "A" or "B" and 98 percent said they would recommend to a fellow educator.

