



Test Drive Overview

In the H&R Block Budget Challenge, students receive a leaderboard score nightly as they compete for scholarships and classroom grants. This Test Drive covers the basics of the Leaderboard Score, Engagement Score, and Real World Ready Score. Students compete for scholarships through their Real World Ready score. (See the Official Contest Rules at the bottom of the Home page for more details.)

Turn-by-Turn Navigation

1. Budget Challenge evaluates performance using the following metrics:

- **Leaderboard Score = Savings – (Fees and Penalties)+ (Quizzes and Surveys).**
- **Engagement Score = Logging in regularly x Paying bills on time x Taking weekly quizzes/surveys.**
- **Real World Ready Score = % achievements against targets for Behavior, Knowledge, and Skill.**

2. H&R Block offers scholarships for students who demonstrate they are the most Real World Ready..

- Eligible students with the top 5 Real World Ready scores from each semester (5 in the Fall and 5 in the Spring) will win a \$20,000 college scholarship.
- Of the 3 components to the Real World Ready Score, the highest weight is given to Skill which is calculated using the Leaderboard score.

3. There are three ways to earn points on the Leaderboard score.

- Students earn 1 point for every dollar saved in their 401(k), including any employer match.
- Students earn 1 point per dollar earned in interest on the checking account and 401(k) account.
- Points may be earned through submitting correct answers on quizzes or answering surveys in full (including open ended questions).

4. Points can be lost on the Leaderboard score for any of the following:

- The leaderboard score will be decreased by 1 point per dollar in fees when a student incurs a fee.
- A 150 point late fee penalty is incurred if a late fee is triggered on any vendor. This impacts the score, but NOT the vendor account balance.
- Additional daily late fee penalties are incurred on the score for each day a bill remains outstanding. These daily penalties vary by vendor. The credit card balance will be monitored for utilization % of the credit limit. Your goal is to keep the utilization below 50% in order to avoid this penalty.
 - From 50% - 74.99%, the penalty is 5 points per day.
 - From 75% - 89.99%, the penalty is 15 points per day.
 - From 90% - 99.99%, the penalty is 25 points per day.
 - 100% or higher, the penalty is 100 points per day.
- Additional penalties up to 1,000 points may be assessed for irresponsible play that could result in harmful or illegal consequences in real life.

5. A one-time courtesy late fee waiver is available during the simulation to each student along with a return of 75 of the initial 150 points assessed as a result of the late payment. All other fee waiver requests will be declined. Invoices must be paid in full including all fees (not pending) before the waiver can be issued. Once your bill has been paid, click the blue "Waive Late Fee" button on the Vendor Page and complete the request form to apply for the late fee waiver. Please note that, while the one-time late fee waiver will improve your Leaderboard score, any impact the late fee had on your Engagement Score will remain.

Road Trip Necessities: Test Drive Only

