In support of Money Smart Week® 2015 Illinois, taking place April 18-25 - the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and its partner organizations are presenting the Money Smart Kid Essay Contest, sponsored by Soy Capital Bank and Trust. Students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to answer the Money Smart Question for their age group (see below) with an essay of 300 words or less. Six finalists will be selected to attend the Money Smart Kick-Off Breakfast on April 17 and one student will be named this year’s Money Smart Kid for Champaign County. The winner will be awarded a $500 scholarship sponsored by Soy Capital Bank and Trust. Two runners-up will be awarded a $250 scholarship sponsored by Soy Capital Bank and Trust. In addition, a number of finalists will receive a $50 award from the Economic Awareness Council.

Students may apply individually or through their class. Teachers are encouraged to use the Money Smart Kid contest as a classroom activity. Participation in the Money Smart Kid contest is an excellent applied writing practice for students. All classes who participate will receive bags of shredded money from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for each participating student.

2015 Money Smart Kid Essay Question:
What is the biggest obstacle to saving your money? What technological and/or banking solutions might help you and your friends begin to save?

Guidelines
Candidates Must:
- Be a student in grades 5-8 in their school.
- Have knowledge of money management skills (decision-making related to spending and saving, investing, use of credit, etc.) appropriate for their age and grade level
- Demonstrate how they practice good money management skills in their daily lives
- Be able to “think on their feet”— responding to questions from business leaders and media
- Be articulate—able to speak in front of large groups and cameras, and respond well to questions
- Live in the Champaign County

To Apply
- Student must be recommended by a teacher using the attached form. (Note: official school sponsorship is not required)
- Student must have parent or guardian permission to apply and participate.
- Student must write an essay (300 words or less) on the assigned topic.
- Essays must be typed on plain white paper, double-spaced. The MoneySmart Kid Application Form must be attached to the essay pages.
- The essay must be the work of the student submitting the essay.
- The application form must be signed by the teacher and a parent/guardian.
- No teacher may sign more than three recommendations.
- The essay and application should be mailed, faxed or emailed as a PDF or scanned attachment to:
  Rita McCoy
  Office of Public Engagement
  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  330 Illini Union Bookstore
  807 S. Wright St.
  Champaign, IL 61820 USA
  TEL: 217-244-1189  /  FAX: 217-333-9898
  Email: rmccoy@illinois.edu

All essays become the property of the Money Smart Committee and may be used by Committee members to promote financial literacy. All submissions must be received by April 2, 2015.
APPLICATION

Student Name __________________________________________ Age ________ Grade ________

School ____________________________________________________________

School address ______________________________________________________

City ___________ Zip ___________ Phone _______________________________

Home address ______________________________________________________

City ___________ Zip ___________ Phone _______________________________

Teacher _____________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian _____________________________________________________ Email ______________________ (If Applicable)

I vouch that the attached essay is fully the work of ________________________________

(Student Name)

__________________________________________________________________________

(Teacher Signature) ___________ (Date) ___________

I vouch that the attached essay is fully and solely the work of my child,

(Student Name)

__________________________________________________________________________

(Parent/Guardian Signature) __________________________________ (Date) ___________

and I give permission for him/her to participate in the activities of Money Smart Week 2015, including consent to release photos and personal information for media and promotional purposes.

__________________________________________________________________________

(Parent/Guardian Signature) __________________________________ (Date) ___________

Fill out this form, making sure to include all information requested, sign the form as indicated, and attach it to the front of the essay. For more information, see MoneySmartWeek.org