

Smart Choice!



Q: Why are they going to stop making the penny?

- Hailey, 4th grade, Oshkosh

A: It is not certain that they are going to stop making pennies, but there is a debate going on within the United States Government. There were two options introduced to eliminate the penny, but neither of them was approved by the U.S. Government. One argument for eliminating the penny is that the cost to make a penny is 1.26 cents each, which is more than the penny is worth. Another reason is that vending machines do not accept pennies nor do many stores accept large amounts of pennies to be used to pay for an item. Also, copper and zinc, which are the materials used to make pennies, are very harmful and toxic if a penny is swallowed. Even though there is debate about continuing to use pennies, the U.S. Government will be releasing new designs of the penny next year.



Choice Bank

920-230-1300

920-267-8050

www.choicebank.com



Nicole Skoglund

Customer Service

Representative

SMART Banking

Consultant


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Northwestern

 www.thenorthwestern.com

Local students connect with local Choice Bank staff through the Smart Choice! program. This program is designed to raise students' awareness of the importance of sound money management. NIE is the non-profit arm of Oshkosh Northwestern that provides local, Oshkosh classrooms with newspapers, educational materials and activities.