

Free Federal Resources on Financial Literacy

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Visit our Youth Webpage for downloadable materials: consumerfinance.gov/youth-financial-education

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Background on the CFPB

Who we are: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

We work to:



- **Empower**

We create tools, answer common questions, and provide tips that help consumers navigate their financial choices and shop for the deal that works best for them.



- **Enforce**

We take action against predatory companies, individuals, and practices that violate the law and have already returned billions of dollars to harmed consumers.



- **Educate**

We encourage financial education and capability from childhood through retirement, publish research, and educate financial companies about their responsibilities.



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What is financial well-being?

What is financial well-being?

- **Financial well-being:** a state of being wherein a person can fully meet current and ongoing financial obligations, can feel secure in their financial future, and is able to make choices that allow them to enjoy life.
 - It is not how much you earn, it is about being able to make decisions with the money you have to allow you to experience peace of mind.

Financial capability is the capacity—based on knowledge, skills, and access—to manage financial resources effectively

Source: The goal of financial education, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (2015), available at http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201501_cfpb_report_financial-well-being.pdf



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The four elements of financial well-being

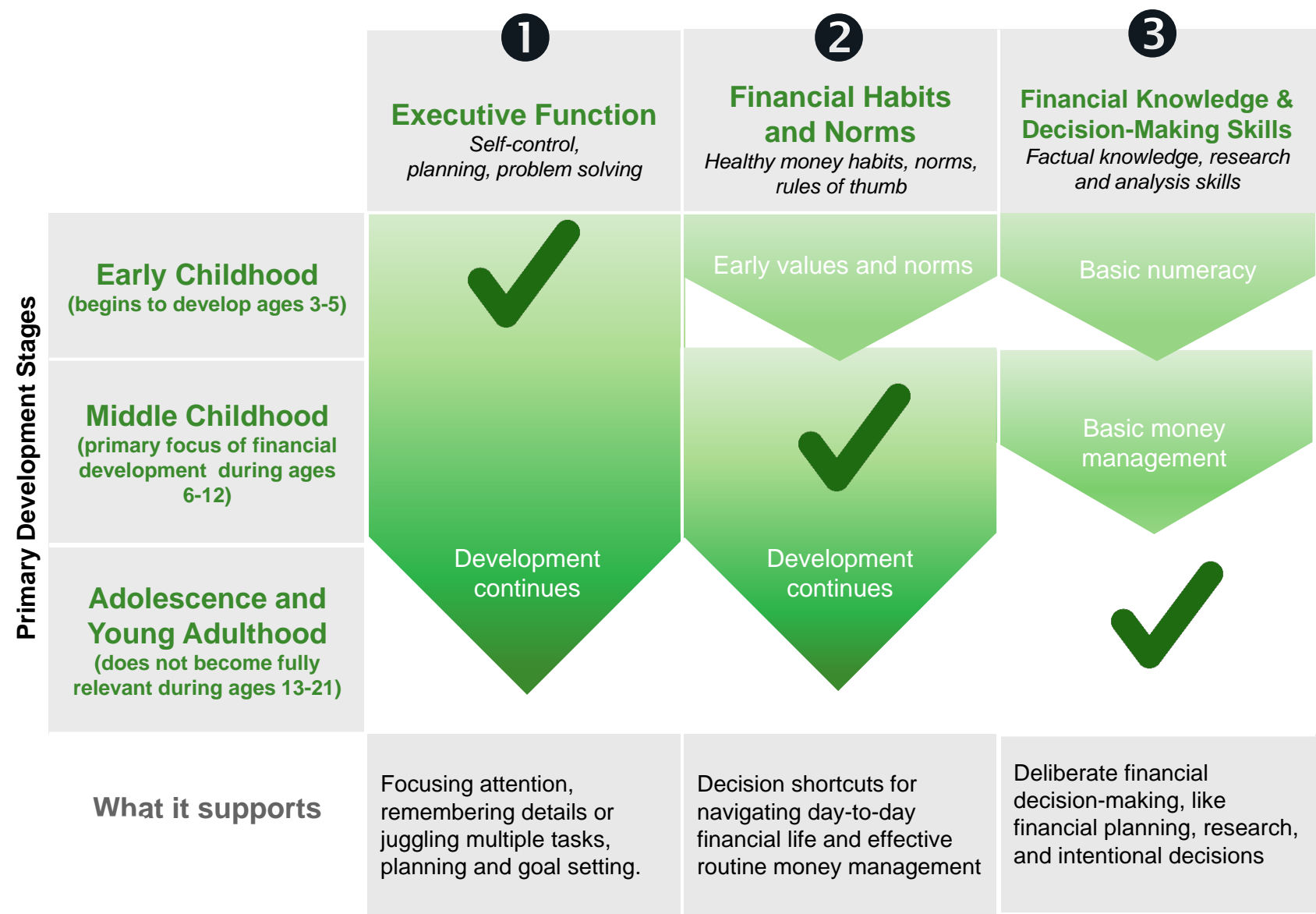
- The CFPB created a first ever consumer-driven definition of personal financial well-being for adults
- Our research suggests that there are four elements of financial well-being:

| | Present | Future |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Security | Control over your day-to-day, month-to-month finances | Capacity to absorb a financial shock |
| Freedom of choice | Financial freedom to make choices to enjoy life | On track to meet your financial goals |



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Three building blocks of youth financial capability



Our Youth Financial Education webpage

[Consumer Education](#) ▾[Rules & Policy](#) ▾[Enforcement](#) ▾[Compliance](#) ▾[Data & Research](#) ▾[News](#) ▾

Teaching and learning strategies

Incorporate the building blocks of financial capability into your classroom and assess student progress toward key milestones.

[Teach the building blocks](#)

A developmental model

The Bureau's framework for how youth acquire the building blocks of financial capability from K to 12 helps educators reach youth at pivotal points in their development.

[Learn about the building blocks](#)

Research and resources

The Bureau supports educators and community leaders by conducting research and developing resources to improve financial education and support evidence-based policy and program decisions.

[Discover research and resources](#)

Engaging classroom activities

Find activities that can help you teach the building blocks of financial capability across the curriculum.

[Find financial literacy activities](#)

Financial education curriculum review

Use the Bureau's evidence-based tool to review and compare financial education curricula so you can choose the one that best meets the needs of your students and classrooms.

[Conduct a curriculum review](#)

Printed copies of materials

The Bureau provides information, tools, and resources that lead to more effective design and delivery of financial education. You can download or order these materials from our publications page.

[Access free printed copies of materials](#)

■ Access and read our research and reports on:

- The Building Blocks of Financial Capability
- Building Blocks Measurement Guide
- Advancing K-12 Financial Education

■ Search for activities to use in the classroom

■ Take the journey to financial well-being

consumerfinance.gov/youth-financial-education

Find youth financial literacy activities

Topic

☐ Earn

☐ Becoming an entrepreneur

☐ Getting paid

☐ Increasing earnings

☐ Learning about careers

☐ Making money

☐ Paying taxes

☐ Save and invest

☐ Banking options

☐ Building emergency savings

☐ Choosing how to save

☐ Investing

☐ Saving for college

☐ Saving for long-term goals

☐ Saving for short-term goals

☐ Protect

☐ Managing risk

☐ Preventing fraud and identity theft

☐ Using insurance

☐ Spend

☐ Budgeting

☐ Buying things

☐ Giving to others

☐ Paying bills

☐ Paying for college

Audience

Grade level

Age range

Student characteristics

☐ English language learners

☐ Special education

☐ Low income

☐ Rural

☐ Urban

Activity characteristics

Activity duration

Activity type

☐ Individual

☐ Small group

☐ Whole class

☐ Available in Spanish

☐ Storytime

Bloom's Taxonomy level

Building block

National standards

Teaching strategy



Understanding prepaid cards

UPDATED JUL 10, 2020

★ Ideal for: High school (11-12)

Students play a game and answer questions to learn about prepaid cards and explore whether they'd consider using them.

KEY INFORMATION

Topic: Spend (Buying things, Paying bills)

Activity duration: 45-60 minutes

BUILDING BLOCK

🔑 Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

www.consumerfinance.gov/teach-activities/

Try a youth financial literacy activity

Playing an investment game

UPDATED MAY 04, 2020

Students work in groups to explore real-world scenarios that can affect stock investments.

Big idea

Understanding the basic concept of the stock market and the risks involved can help you become better informed about investing.

Essential questions

- What can make a stock price rise or fall?
- What risks are involved when investing in the stock market?

Objectives

- Learn how various factors or events can affect stock prices
- Understand the importance of considering risk when making investment decisions

What students will do

- Work in groups to review scenarios that may affect an imaginary company's stock price.
- Brainstorm on why they think the stock price rose or fell.
- Reflect on the risks and rewards of stock investing.

Download activity

Key information for this activity

Building block

[\(What are the building blocks?\)](#)

- 🔗 Financial habits and norms
- 🔗 Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

School subject

CTE (Career and technical education), English or language arts, Math, Science, Social studies or history

Topic

Save and Invest (Investing)

Audience

Grade level: High school (9-10), High school (11-12)

Age range: 13-15, 16-19

Student characteristics: English language learners, Special education

Activity characteristics

Activity type: Small group

Teaching strategy: Gamification, Simulation

Bloom's Taxonomy level: Understand, Apply

Activity: Protecting your Social Security number

- Students learn about the importance of protecting their Social Security number and decide if statements you read about Social Security numbers are true or false.
 - You check with the students to learn what they already know about identify theft and social security numbers.
 - Designed for individual work and group work, you can also just administer as a group activity.



Your financial path to graduation tool

An interactive tool that helps students with financial aid offers figure out how to pay for school. You can save and revise your information. Gives apples-to-apples comparisons of multiple aid offers.

www.consumerfinance.gov/gradpath



Your financial path to graduation

- Does my funding cover my costs?
- Can I afford the loans I'll need?
- Is this school worth it for me?

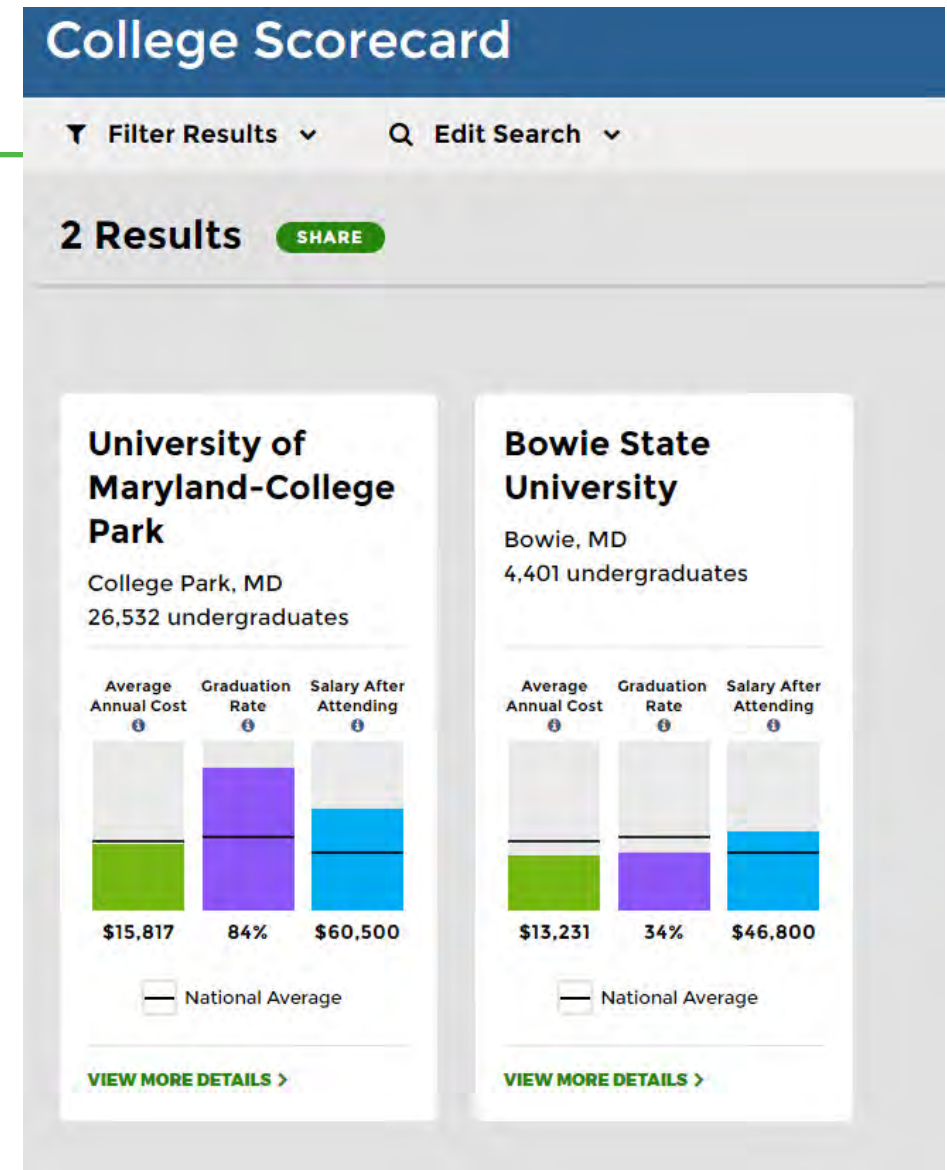
Activity: Planning your financial path to college graduation

- Scenario: Imagine that your friend Emmett has been accepted to three colleges, and each school offered him a financial aid package. He's asked for your help understanding these financial aid offers so he has a true sense of what his actual costs will be.
- Use Emmett's financial offer and the CFPB "Your financial path to graduation" tool to help him out.
 - ☐ Look for strategies to cover costs
 - ☐ Can he afford his loans?
 - ☐ Are these loans worth the investment?
 - ☐ Reflect on strategies that high school students can use to help pay college costs.



Activity: Comparing higher education choices

- Students explore higher education options by comparing similarities and differences between two colleges near where they live.
- Students will use the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard website to find nearby colleges and universities.
- Choose two schools to compare and contrast by reviewing features such as public vs private, average annual cost, overall graduation rates and majors available.



Activity: Learning how FAFSA works

- The Federal Student Aid Estimator tool helps students estimate the type and amount of federal financial aid they may be eligible for to help pay for college or career school.
 - In groups, students will use the information on an imaginary college applicants who is applying for financial aid to attend Pretend University in New Mexico to experience how the Estimator tool works.
 - Students then discuss the similarities and differences between the Estimator results the four students received.
 - At the end, the teacher can have students enter their own information into the Estimator to begin planning for their own experience.

Federal Student Aid Estimator



Student Information

consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/youth-financial-education/teach/activities/learning-how-fafsa-works/



Misadventures in Money Management (MiMM) activities

High schools and non-profit organizations

MiMM is available to future servicemembers; including your local Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program or non-profits supporting servicemembers.

Access the MiMM [lesson guides](#) for JROTC and ROTC teachers.

There are educational guides to help teachers extend the learning as young people complete a character's story.
<https://go.usa.gov/xGXV4>

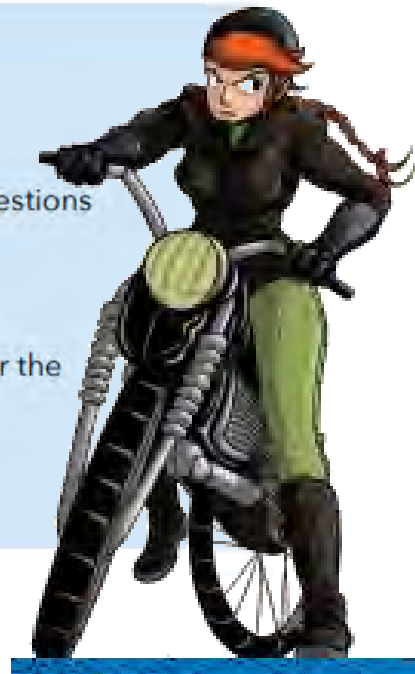
BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Angela builds her credit

Building good credit has a positive effect on your life and career. Credit scores are the number lenders use to predict how likely you are to pay back a loan on time.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Complete Angela's MiMM story at <https://mimm.gov/>.
- 2 Complete the "Learning from Angela's experience" questions.
 - If you're working with another person or in a group, discuss the questions and answer them together.
 - If you're working alone, answer the questions on your own.
- 3 Read the "Understand your credit score" handout and use it to answer the "Digging deeper" questions independently.
- 4 Answer the reflection questions on your own.



Activity: Exploring government agencies



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Federal Deposit Insurance
Corporation



Federal Emergency
Management Agency



Federal Trade
Commission



Department of
Transportation



National Credit Union
Administration



Social Security
Administration

- Our home was terribly damaged in a hurricane. My family needs immediate help with a place to stay and needs help figuring out how to save our house. Which government agency should we contact?
- My cousin needs help figuring out how to get an auto loan. Which agency has tools to help him?
- My grandmother is about to retire. Which government agency will help her with her retirement benefits?

Building block activities resource list

consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/youth-financial-education/resources-research/building-block-activities-resources/

Our youth financial education activities occasionally include links to helpful tools, information, and materials from other agencies and organizations.

- You can search these resources by the MyMoney Five principles for managing money – Earn, Save and Invest, Protect, Spend, and Borrow.

Earn

| | |
|--|--------|
| Careers and jobs | Show + |
| College and financial aid | Show + |
| Social Security | Show + |
| Taxes | Show + |
| General government financial resources | Show + |

Save & Invest

| | |
|--|--------|
| College & financial aid | Show + |
| Interest | Show + |
| Investments | Show + |
| General government financial resources | Show + |

Protect

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Credit | Show + |
| Identity theft and fraud | Show + |
| Investments | Show + |
| Safety | Show + |



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General CFPB resources

Submit a complaint

Submit a complaint

Each week we send more than 10,000 complaints about financial products and services to companies for response. If another agency would be better able to assist, we'll send it to them and let you know.

Most companies respond within 15 days.



Ready to begin?

Submitting online usually takes less than 10 minutes. Include everything you need to because you generally can't submit a second complaint about the same problem.

[Start a new complaint](#)

www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint

Before you start a complaint:

Curious how the complaint process works? [Follow the steps your complaint goes through](#) to help you get a response about your issue.

Have you tried reaching out to the company? Companies can usually answer questions unique to your situation and more specific to the products and services they offer.

Not sure if you have a complaint? Search below for hundreds of impartial answers to consumers' most frequently asked financial questions.

[Search](#)

CFPB en Español

[Para consumidores](#)[Obtener respuestas](#)[Enviar una queja](#)[Quiénes somos](#)

Estamos aquí para usted

La Oficina para la Protección Financiera del Consumidor (CFPB, siglas en inglés), es una agencia gubernamental que se asegura de que bancos, prestamistas y otras compañías financieras le traten justamente.

Proteja sus finanzas del coronavirus

El CFPB está comprometido a ofrecerle a los consumidores información actualizada para que protejan y manejen sus finanzas.

[Use nuestros recursos](#)

Ayuda a propietarios e inquilinos

¿Le preocupa no poder pagar su hipoteca o renta por culpa de la emergencia nacional del coronavirus?

[Visite la página de vivienda](#)



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Helping multilingual communities and newcomers

In the United States, financial products and services are generally described in English. For those who primarily speak a language other than English, it can be challenging to understand and use these products and services.

CFPB resources are available in multiple languages

Find the resources you want, in the languages you need:

- For the people you serve who have proficiency in languages other than English, we offer information that they can read and listen to, in their preferred languages.
 - Publications
 - Glossaries (Extensive list of financial terms translated into Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Tagalog)
 - Complaint telephone line (855) 411-2372

Español 中文 Tiếng Việt 한국어 Tagalog Русский العربية Kreyòl Ayisyen

CFPB activities to build youth financial capability available in Spanish



For grades 9 - 12

- Saving each payday
- Creating a savings first aid kit
- Choosing the best cell phone plan
- Spending Scenarios
- Reflecting on needs vs wants
- Creating a buying plan
- Reporting fraud and identify theft to authorities
- Calculating numbers in your paycheck



For grades 6-8

- Protecting your identity online
- Being a responsible borrower
- Meeting your future self



For grades K-5

- Picturing what you're saving
- Meeting your future self



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Search filter Activity type: [Available in Spanish](#)

Activity: Bouncing ball money choices (Money Circles)

- The people around us help shape the way we think and feel about money.
 - Your “money circle” is your family members, friends, and other people in your life who influence your decisions about money.
 - While you’re learning about how to handle your finances, it can be helpful to have conversations about the feelings and relationships that help shape how you think about money.



Saver



Spender



Planner



Impulsive



Worrier



Confident

Ask CFPB

Search for answers

Ask CFPB

We offer clear, impartial answers to hundreds of financial questions. Find the information you need to make more informed choices about your money.



www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb

Search for your question

Auto loans

- What effect will shopping for an auto loan have on my credit? [Read answer](#)
- I owe more on my current loan than my current vehicle is worth. What do I need to know if I buy a new vehicle? [Read answer](#)

[Learn more about auto loans](#)

Bank accounts

- How quickly can I get money after I deposit a check into my checking account? What is a deposit hold? [Read answer](#)
- I would like to be able to have my family member help with my bill paying and banking. What are my options? [Read answer](#)

[Learn more about bank accounts](#)

Credit cards

- What is a credit card interest rate? What does APR mean? [Read answer](#)
- How do I dispute a charge on my credit card bill? [Read answer](#)

[Learn more about credit cards](#)

Credit reports and scores

- Where can I get my credit score? [Read answer](#)

[Learn more about credit reports and scores](#)

See the most common questions

Disaster and emergency financial preparedness

Dealing with disasters and emergencies

A guide to handling your finances if you are preparing for, recovering from, or rebuilding after a hurricane, tornado, wildfire or other emergency.



Resources to help you prepare

- Make an emergency plan
- Build emergency savings

Resources to protect yourself

- Tackle housing issues
- Protect your finances
- Deal with property damage

Resources to help you rebuild

- Help others recover
- Avoid frauds and scams



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consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/disasters-and-emergencies/

Student self assessment tools

Map your money journey

Map your money journey

Understanding how to manage money is a lifelong journey. Take this survey to see where you are on your journey today and learn about steps you can take for your future.



- This tool allows you to identify young people's emerging financial capability at a specific moment in time.
- It gives a picture of what developmental milestones have been achieved.
- On the main landing page, students are asked to select their grade level, grades 3-5, or grades 6-8, or grades 9 – 12.

Let's map your money journey – high school

consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/youth-financial-education/survey/9-12/

Grades 9-12

Let's map your money journey

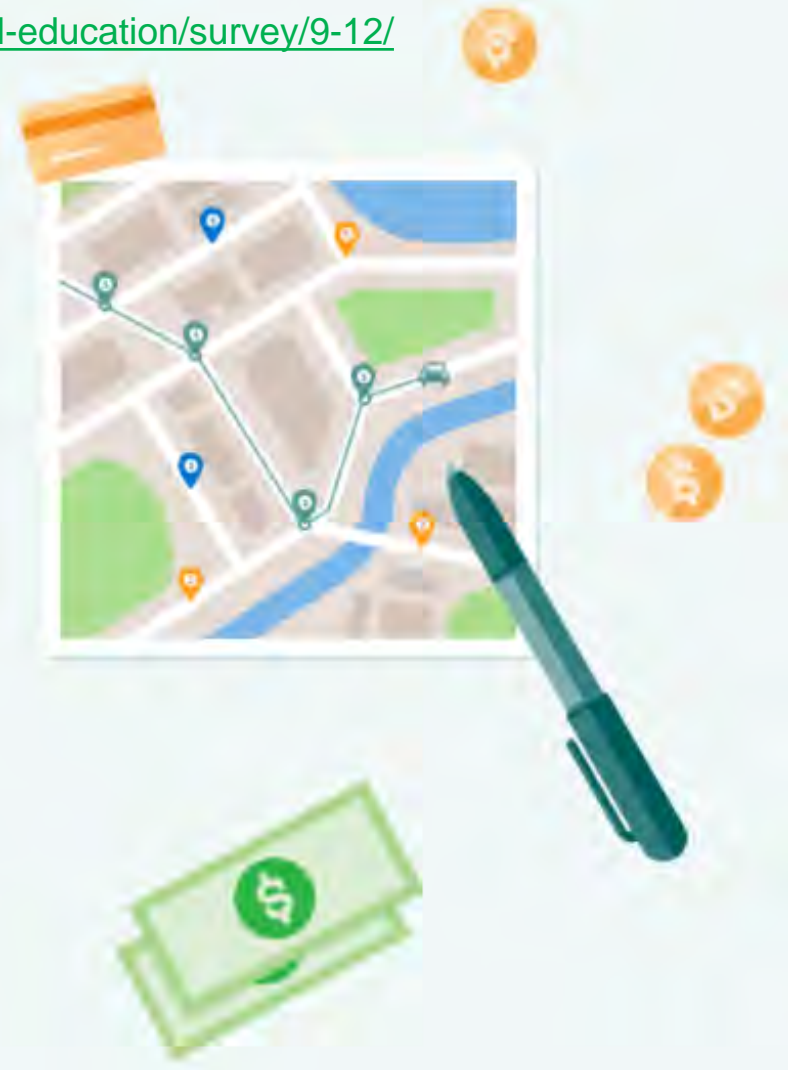
Find out about your current money skills and explore things you can do to manage your money better.

- The survey includes 30 multiple-choice questions.
- Your answers will be private.

Let's do this

Privacy statement

We never collect or store the answers you provide. [See how your privacy is protected.](#)



- Privacy statement has been customized for this tool.

High school survey question section

- The high school survey contains six sections
- Sections are editable
- Users can restart the survey at any time
- Headers to each section and the Likert scale vary
- When users complete all sections, they can click to view their results
- Progress bar informs users how many questions remain.

How often does each statement describe you or your situation?

17. If I really want something, I work hard to get it.

☐ Most of the time ☒ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Rarely ☐ I don't know

18. I let my friends' choices guide what I decide to buy.

☒ Most of the time ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Rarely ☐ I don't know

19. I'm confident in my ability to achieve a financial goal I set.

☒ Most of the time ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Rarely ☐ I don't know

20. When I'm in trouble or have a challenge to deal with, I can usually find a solution.

☐ Most of the time ☒ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Rarely ☐ I don't know

[< Back](#) [Next >](#)

[Reset survey and start over](#)

Your survey progress
20 of 30 questions completed



Section 1 (complete)
Questions 1-6

[edit](#) ✓

Section 2 (complete)
Questions 7-11

[edit](#) ✓

Section 3 (complete)
Questions 12-16

[edit](#) ✓

Section 4 (complete)
Questions 17-20

✓

Section 5 (in progress)
Questions 21-26

☐

Section 6
Questions 27-30

☐

Results page: overall results

- The results page begins by offering the overall results of the assessment
- Users can click to view the breakdown of their results
- Results are shown as: Starting out, On the road, or Well on your way
- Results are in the three building blocks categories:
 - Planning and self-control
 - Money habits and values
 - Money knowledge and choices

Your money journey results

Congratulations, you're **on the road**.

This means you have some important money habits and skills, but you can still learn more.

Starting out

📍 On the road

Well on your way



Now what? Read more about your results below. Think about things you're doing well and things you could do better. Be sure to save your results so you can see them again later or share them with your teacher or a trusted adult.

Your money journey



Your money journey includes three important subjects:

- Planning and self-control
- Money habits and values
- Money knowledge and choices


Exploring each of these subjects will help you get the money future you want.

Results page: Planning and self-control


- Aligns with the executive function building block
- Provides feedback on planning and problem-solving skill building
- Children are given examples of this skill area and asked to think about which skills are their strongest and which they can improve on

 Planning and self-control Hide 

Starting out

 On the road

Well on your way



You're **on the road** to having stronger planning and self-control skills! Planning ahead, remembering information, juggling tasks, and controlling impulses are important skills for managing money.

Examples of these skills:


- Being in control of your behavior
- Giving something up now so that you can have something better later
- Setting goals and making plans to meet them
- Staying focused and being able to keep going even when things get hard

Stop and think:

- Which skills in this area are your strongest?
- Which ones do you think can improve to help you along your money journey?

Results page: Money habits and values


- Aligns with the financial habits and norms building block
- Provides feedback on values, standards, routine practices, and rules to live by skill building
- Children are given examples of this skill area and asked to think about which skills are their strongest and which they can improve on

 Money habits and values Hide

Starting out

On the road

Well on your way



You're **on the road** to developing stronger money habits and values! Money habits and values guide the way we spend and save money each day. These are the things we believe about money and the rules we set for ourselves to help us navigate our money choices.

Examples of these skills:


- Developing a positive attitude about saving and spending
- Making money choices based on your own values, not someone else's
- Using your own rules to live by when making money choices
- Believing in your own ability to manage money and achieve your money goals

Stop and think:

- Which skills in this area are your strongest?
- Which ones do you think can improve to help you along your money journey?

Results page: Money knowledge and choices


- Aligns with the financial knowledge and decision-making skills building block
- Provides feedback on problem-solving, critical thinking, and an understanding of key financial facts and concepts skill building
- Children are given examples of this skill area and asked to think about which skills are their strongest and which they can improve on

 Money knowledge and choices Hide

Starting out

On the road

Well on your way



You're **on the road** toward stronger money knowledge and decision-making skills! Money knowledge and choices means having the information and skills you need to make thoughtful decisions about money.

Examples of these skills:

- Understanding basic money concepts and using them with confidence
- Managing money to reach your goal
- Being able to identify trusted sources for information about money
- Comparing choices before making a money decision

Stop and think:


- Which skills in this area are your strongest?
- Which ones do you think you can improve to help you along your money journey?

Results page: next steps

- Elementary school next steps only recommends the student complete the next steps worksheet
- Middle & high school next steps are in three parts:
 - Explore their strengths
 - Talk with their teacher
 - Talk with their parent or another trusted adult
 - Offers handout resources to provide conversation starters

Three things you can do to get farther down the road on your money journey

① Explore your strengths




The [Taking the next steps on your money journey](#)  worksheet can help you think about your strengths and set goals to get the money future you want.

② Talk with your teacher

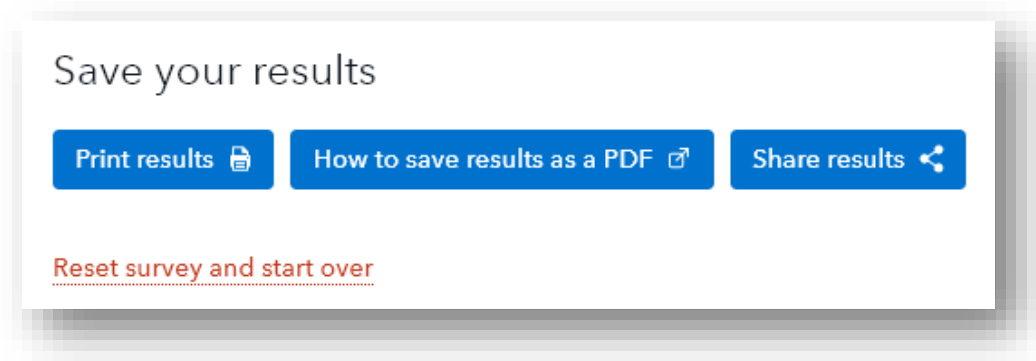
Talk with your teacher about your money map. Your teacher can review your goals and find the right activities to support your progress on your money journey.

③ Talk with a parent or trusted adult

Talk with a parent or trusted adult about your money journey. You can explore these resources to help guide your conversation:

- [Who shapes my money choices?](#) 
- [Options for storing your savings](#) 
- [What is debt?](#) 

Results page: Saving results



- Results can be printed (students are asked to enter their initials on the page)
- Results page can be saved as a PDF file
- A link to the results page can be shared by email or submitted in a learning management system

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CFPB Bulk Publications

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 - How to read a pay stub

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The Youth Financial Education category contains publications grouped by topics. Choose any of the topics listed below to narrow your search for a specific publication.

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