EDUCATOR TOOLKIT

Aligning with North Carolina State Standards

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Introduction

The AFSA Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the delivery of high quality, effective personal finance education. Our flagship program, MoneySKILL®, is an interactive, web-based personal finance curriculum designed to build practical money management skills through 38 engaging modules. This toolkit was created as a guide for North Carolina educators to use to connect MoneySKILL content to the North Carolina State Board of Education's personal finance standards. By mapping each state standard to corresponding MoneySKILL modules and providing links to additional classroom resources, this toolkit simplifies lesson planning, ensures educators are meeting personal finance curriculum requirements, and supports effective delivery of financial education across North Carolina schools.

We invite you to explore this toolkit and use it as a resource to strengthen your personal finance instruction for students in middle school, high school, and beyond. Educators can sign up for a free MoneySKILL instructor account using the link below to gain full access to the platform's ad-free content, class management tools, and teaching materials. Together, we can ensure that every North Carolina student gains the foundational knowledge and skills needed for lifelong financial success.

Sign Up

Using MoneySKILL in the Classroom

MoneySKILL is a free (and ad-free), customizable, interactive, web-based curriculum that teaches foundational money management skills that can last a lifetime. Topics covered in its 38 course modules include budgeting, credit, saving and investing, vehicle purchasing, income taxes, and insurance. MoneySKILL can be used as a standalone personal finance course or integrated into a variety of courses where personal finance is included (e.g., business, economics, family and consumer sciences, math, social studies, and more).

Any educator who is interested in teaching personal finance can sign up to become a MoneySKILL instructor. In addition to traditional schoolteachers, this includes parents, home school educators, school administrators, nonprofit organizations, and community educators. As shown in the tables below, MoneySKILL is well-aligned with North Carolina Department of Education personal finance standards. Specifically, 37 of its 38 modules align at least partially with at least one North Carolina course content standard and/or objective. In addition to course modules themselves, the AFSA Education Foundation has additional resources that complement and support the MoneySKILL modules. Information about supplemental materials can be found on the AFSA Education Foundation website and linked within this toolkit (page 10).

North Carolina personal finance standards are action oriented with words like "explain," "summarize," "identify," "compare," "classify," "critique," "design," and "differentiate." Each MoneySKILL module features 10 content chunks and related assessment questions that include case study analyses and math calculations, thereby providing educators with ready-made activities that align with state standards. MoneySKILL course structure can be self-paced by students or teacher-led.

Recommended MoneySKILL teaching strategies include:

- Teach course content first and then have students use MoneySKILL for review and application of concepts.
- Have students complete modules alone (e.g., for homework) or in small groups and debrief the answers.
- Work through MoneySKILL content as a total class; teach selected concepts and ask their related questions.
- Combine MoneySKILL content and questions with supplemental learning activities (a hybrid approach).
- Develop discussion prompts and/or include current events to reinforce key concepts.
- Provide additional resources and/or individual remedial instruction as needed.
- Use guest speakers (e.g., financial services professionals) to provide real-world insights.
- Have students apply knowledge gained through projects (e.g., a personal budget and credit card comparison).
- Assign a final project (e.g., personal financial plan) or use a final assessment to determine student progress.
- Encourage students to share what they learned (e.g., bulletin boards, school newspaper, social media).
- Give students who pass the course a certificate of completion (MoneySKILL provides certificates).
- Gather feedback from students to refine future teaching methods.

Students are never too young to learn about personal finance. In addition to supporting the North Carolina personal finance course requirement for high school graduation, MoneySKILL can be adapted for use with middle school students. There are 12 specially designed MoneySKILL junior high/middle school modules and all of them align with the North Carolina personal finance standards.

North Carolina Personal Finance Education Standards

North Carolina is one of an increasing number of states that have passed legislation mandating a financial education course for high school graduation. North Carolina's personal finance education requirement stems from House Bill 924 (HB924), signed into law in 2019, which mandated a new Economics and Personal Finance (EPF) course for high school graduation, impacting the class of 2024 and beyond. This bipartisan effort created a full-credit course covering credit, budgeting, mortgages, taxes, postsecondary education, and more.

To free up space for the EPF course, North Carolina combined two American History courses into one. Prior to passage of HB924, personal finance content was loosely embedded within an American history course that included many topics including U.S. history, civics, government, and economics. Advocates for a standalone course noted that students previously received only a small amount of dedicated personal finance instruction.

Students are required to receive a passing grade in the EPF class to receive their diploma. HB924 legislation also requires EPF course teachers to receive the professional development necessary to ensure that high-quality personal finance instruction is provided. The law contains the following details:

> *"To the extent funds are available for this purpose, the State Board of Education shall require the employing entity to make available to EPF teachers and prospective EPF teachers the EPF professional development course provided by the North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE). When practicable, teachers shall complete the EPF professional development course prior to teaching the EPF course in public schools."*

The standards and objectives that were written for the EPF course are intended to provide a framework to guide public schools in the development of curriculum or use of existing curricula for both standard and honors level EPF courses. They are organized into five strands: economics (E), income and education (IE), money and credit management (MCM), financial planning (FP), and critical consumerism (CC).

The online MoneySKILL course is ideally suited to teach EPF course content to students and is a valuable resource for financial educators nationwide. The 38 MoneySKILL modules can be used alone or in combination with supplemental resources such as videos, infographics, online calculators and games, digital brochures, and student worksheets. The ultimate goal of both MoneySKILL and the EPF course is to help improve students' future financial security and prevent negative outcomes such as low credit scores, payment delinquencies, and forgone compound interest. In the section below, each of the five North Carolina EPF strands and their respective standards and objectives are listed, along with MoneySKILL modules that teach the foundational knowledge required to meet the stated objectives. This format makes it very easy for educators to find content to support their classes and to prepare reports for school administrators.

MoneySKILL and North Carolina State Standards Alignment

Note: While MoneySKILL does not offer standalone economics modules, high-level economic concepts such as supply and demand, opportunity cost, and market conditions are integrated throughout the curriculum to provide important financial context.

ECONOMICS

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.E.1, EPF.E.2, most of EPF.E.3, and EPF.E.4.	Non-aligned Course Content Strand *(Outside of the scope of MoneySKILL's personal inance curriculum)*
EPF.E.3: Describe the uses and limitations of online safety precautions, including data-encryption, password, strength, clearing browser cache, firewalls, and antivirus software.	Non-aligned Course Content Strand *(Outside of the scope of MoneySKILL's personal inance curriculum)*
EPF.E.3.3: Explain how taxes and fees fund government goods and services.	**Module 9** - Federal Income Taxes

INCOME AND EDUCATION

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.IE.1 Analyze the relationship between education, income, career, and desired lifestyle.	**Module 1** - The Plans We Have For Our Lives **Module 2** - Lifetime Plan **Module 3** - Earned Income and Skill Demand **Module 4** - Earned Income and Skill Supply **Module 8** - Consumer Spending and Protection
EPF.IE.1.1 Explain how education, income, career, and life choices impact an individual's financial plan and goals.	**Module 1** - The Plans We Have For Our Lives **Module 2** - Lifetime Plan **Module 3** - Earned Income and Skill Demand **Module 4** - Earned Income and Skill Supply
EPF.IE.1.2 Differentiate career and education options after high school in terms of desired lifestyle.	**Module 1** - The Plans We Have For Our Lives **Module 2** - Lifetime Plan **Module 3** - Earned Income and Skill Demand
EPF.IE.1.3 Identify the costs of postsecondary education and the potential increase in income from a career of choice.	**Module 3** - Earned Income and Skill Demand **Module 33** - Student Loans
EPF.IE.1.4 Compare strategies which can minimize the costs of postsecondary education.	**Module 23** - Saving Money **Module 33** - Student Loans
EPF.IE.1.5 Summarize various types of income	**Module 3** - Earned Income and Skill Demand **Module 5** - Property and Business Income **Module 6** - Unearned Income and Transfer Payments

INCOME AND EDUCATION CONTINUED

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.IE.2 Understand the purpose and function of taxes and the impact on income.	**Module 9** - Federal Income Taxes **Module 10** - Other Deductions from Pay
EPF.IE.2.1 Explain how payroll deductions modify an employee's disposable income.	**Module 9** - Federal Income Taxes **Module 10** - Other Deductions from Pay
EPF.IE.2.2 Identify the types and purposes of local, state, and federal taxes and the way each is levied and used.	**Module 9** - Federal Income Taxes **Module 16** - The Costs of Homeownership
EPF.IE.2.3 Implement appropriate computations and procedures to prepare a federal or state tax form.	**Module 9** - Federal Income Taxes

MONEY AND CREDIT MANAGEMENT

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.MCM.1 Understand money management skills and strategies.	**Module 11** - Tracking Expenses and Budgeting
EPF.MCM.1.1 Explain how fiscally responsible individuals create and manage a spending plan.	**Module 11** - Tracking Expenses and Budgeting
EPF.MCM.1.2 Critique income and spending plans in terms of age, individual needs, and available resources.	**Module 2** - Lifetime Plan **Module 11** - Tracking Expenses and Budgeting
EPF.MCM.1.3 Compare the costs and benefits of renting, leasing, or owning.	**Module 15** - Renting vs. Owning a Home **Module 16** - The Costs of Homeownership **Module 19** - Vehicle Financing
EPF.MCM.1.4 Compare various types of mortgages.	**Module 16** - The Costs of Homeownership
EPF.MCM.2 Understand the purposes and services of financial institutions.	**Module 24** - Short-Term Saving Products
EPF.MCM.2.1 Design a plan that uses the services of various financial institutions to meet financial goals.	**Module 6** - Unearned Income and Transfer Payments
EPF.MCM.2.2 Design a plan that uses the services of various financial institutions to meet financial goals.	**Module 19** - Vehicle Financing **Module 23** - Saving Money **Module 31** - Credit Cards and Other Unsecured Borrowing
EPF.MCM.2.3 Design a plan that uses the services of various financial institutions to meet financial goals.	**Module 13** - Managing a Checking Account **Module 14** - Paying for What We Buy **Module 29** - Costs and Benefits of Borrowing **Module 31** - Credit Cards and Other Unsecured Borrowing

MONEY AND CREDIT MANAGEMENT CONTINUED

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.MCM.3 Understand the concepts and factors that enable individuals to make informed financial decisions for effective resource planning and money management.	Module 7 - The Financial Life Cycle Module 17 - Food and Clothing Purchases Module 18 - Preparing to Acquire a Vehicle Module 21 - Vacation and Leisure Purchases Module 22 - Purchasing Physical Assets
EPF.MCM.3.1 Compare credit sources and services.	Module 29 - Costs and Benefits of Borrowing Module 30 - Secured Borrowing Module 31 - Credit Cards and Other Unsecured Borrowing
EPF.MCM.3.2 Explain how debt management and creditworthiness impact an individual's ability to become a responsible consumer and borrower.	Module 32 - Your Credit Rating
EPF.MCM.3.3 Summarize the advantages and disadvantages of debt.	Module 29 - Costs and Benefits of Borrowing
EPF.MCM.3.4 Classify the various types of insurance and estate planning including the benefits and consequences.	Module 20 - Costs of Operating a Vehicle Module 35 - Understanding Insurance Module 36 - Life Insurance, Wills, and Disability Insurance Module 37 - Health Insurance

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.FP.1 Understand the value and planning processes associated with saving and investing.	Module 23 - Saving Money Module 24 - Short-Term Saving Products Module 25 - Long-Term, Fixed Income Assets Module 26 - Equity Investing Module 27 - Investment Funds Module 28 - Investing in a Small Business
EPF.FP.1.1 Compare various investing strategies and tax implications for their potential to build wealth.	Module 9 - Federal Income Taxes Module 25 - Long-Term, Fixed Income Assets Module 26 - Equity Investing
EPF.FP.1.2 Identify factors (i.e. income, budget, cost of living, experiences) that influence financial planning.	Module 1 - The Plans We Have For Our Lives Module 2 - Lifetime Plan
EPF.FP.1.3 Summarize the role of philanthropy, volunteer services, businesses, and nonprofits in community development and quality of life.	Module 12 - Charitable Giving and Your Finances

CRITICAL CONSUMERISM

Course Standards and Objectives	MoneySKILL Modules
EPF.CC.1 Understand factors associated with consumer decision making.	Module 7 - The Financial Life Cycle
EPF.CC.1.1 Explain how advertising, social media, and business practices impact consumer decisions.	Module 8 - Consumer Spending and Protection
EPF.CC.1.2 Identify information, reviews, and reports consumers use to make financial decisions.	Module 8 - Consumer Spending and Protection
EPF.CC.1.3 Explain how consumer-driven decisions impact the economy.	Module 3 - Earned Income and Skill Demand Module 4 - Earned Income and Skill Supply
EPF.CC.2 Understand the rights and responsibilities of buyers and sellers under consumer protection laws.	Module 8 - Consumer Spending and Protection
EPF.CC.2.1 Explain how consumer protection laws contribute to the empowerment of the individual.	Module 8 - Consumer Spending and Protection
EPF.CC.2.2 Summarize various types of fraudulent solicitation and business practices.	Module 34 - Identity Theft
EPF.CC.2.3 Summarize ways consumers can protect themselves from fraudulent and deceptive practices.	Module 34 - Identity Theft

Additional Resources

Effective financial education requires high-quality teaching and learning materials and professional development resources for financial educators. Listed below are national and North Carolina resources to support the execution of personal finance education standards in North Carolina:

AFSA Education Foundation & MoneySKILL Resources

- MoneySKILL instructor sign-up
- Evaluating MoneySKILL: Effects on Financial Knowledge and Behaviors research paper (2023)
- MoneySKILL course flyer
- MoneySKILL video
- About MoneySKILL video
- MoneySKILL: Free Personal Finance Course for Your Classroom video
- MoneySKILL Supplemental Videos Per Module list

Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy Resources

- Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy
- Jump$tart Coalition National Standards for Personal Financial Education
- Jump$tart Clearinghouse (curated financial education resources)
- Jump$tart Financial Foundations for Educators (online professional development course)
- Jump$tart National Educator Conference

North Carolina Resources

- North Carolina Standards for Economics and Personal Finance
- North Carolina Jump$tart Coalition
- North Carolina Council on Economic Education (NCCEE)
- NCCEE Economic Education and Financial Literacy Resources
- NCCEE Professional Development
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- North Carolina Report Card (Champlain College Center for Financial Literacy)

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The AFSA Education Foundation was founded as a nonprofit in 1990 with the mission to educate consumers of all ages on personal finance concepts and responsible money management. For more than 30 years, the foundation has been dedicated to providing free personal finance education, resources, and training to educators of all types from schools to the workplace.

In support of its mission, the foundation developed MoneySKILL® in 2002 as one of the first online personal finance curriculums. MoneySKILL is designed to allow instructors to create custom, web-based personal finance courses primarily for middle school, high school, and college students and consists of 38 different topic areas focusing on a broad range of money management fundamentals. In addition to being completely free with no commercial advertisements for all educators, MoneySKILL is offered in English and Spanish, contains audio dictation options, and aligns with nationally recognized personal finance standards.

To learn more about MoneySKILL and sign up today, visit www.moneyskill.org or contact the foundation at info@moneyskill.org.

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