



EverFi

FINANCIAL
LITERACY

Curriculum Guide



EverFi - Financial Literacy™

EverFi - Financial Literacy™ teaches, assesses and certifies students in critical financial concepts through the latest online, interactive curriculum including 3D gaming, animations, video and individualized feedback. EverFi's award-winning platform benefits students, teachers and school systems by:

- Empowering students with critical financial information and skills for the 21st century.
- Expanding the reach of teachers by instantly providing all students with access to foundational curriculum that meets both national and state financial literacy standards.
- Helping teachers easily track student progress, mastery level and knowledge gain.
- Bringing the latest learning technology into the classroom at no cost to the school through public-private partnerships.

Upon completion of the EverFi course, students will be able to:

- Define key financial concepts and terms.
- Recognize the impact of financial decisions.
- Apply critical thinking skills to real-world financial simulations and interactive exercises.

STANDARDS


Our curriculum is developed in alignment with relevant curriculum frameworks at both the state and national level. EverFi maps to state level financial literacy standards (where available), Jumpstart Coalition's National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education, and Common Core State Standards for Math and ELA.

HIGH LEVEL COURSE FACTS

- **Course Overview Video** and **9 Learning Modules** (approximately 30-45 minutes each)
- Interactive game called **EverFi Life** (1 hour). Students apply their new financial skills in a culminating, virtual world simulation.
- Cumulative course time is estimated to be between **6 to 8 hours at the computer**.
- **Attitudinal and behavioral surveys** to measure students' existing financial attitudes and behaviors and any changes that occur after taking the course.
- Upon completion of the learning modules, students earn an **EverFi Certification in Financial Literacy**.

Each module includes:

- **Pre/Post & Formative Assessments:** EverFi tracks student knowledge gains with pre- and post- assessment questions before and after each learning module, as well as



tracking student mastery level throughout the module using formative assessment data. EverFi's online teacher platform allows instructors to track student progress, assessment scores and knowledge gains.

- **Performance-based activities:** After the content introduction in each module, students apply their learning through interactive, performance-based activities.
- **Individualized feedback:** Students are asked several formative assessment questions in throughout each module. Students are provided with individualized feedback, and provided
- **In-class critical thinking and group activities:** Teachers have access to supplemental in-class lesson guides to encourage students apply the information they learned in the modules to their own real-world financial decisions.

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Overview Video

- A brief introductory overview of the EverFi course and its features (5 minutes).

Module 1: Savings

- **Overview:** Students learn the basics of simple and compound interest, how to set and reach savings goals, the types of savings vehicles available to them, and the importance of budgeting (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Understand the key differences between compound and simple interest
 - Determine the impact of interest rates, compounding frequency, and time on total interest accrued
 - Describe common features (liquidity, minimum balance requirements) of common savings vehicles
 - Select the appropriate savings plan or vehicle based on a person's situation
 - Describe best practices to use when making a budget
 - Apply the concepts of "needs versus wants" to modify a budget
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Savings Goal Examples:* Explore how both small and large savings goals can be reached with consistent savings over time.
 - *Compound Interest Exploration:* Compare the interest earned with different compounding frequencies.
 - *Savings Vehicle Practice:* Identify the appropriate savings vehicle in specific real-life scenarios.

- *Budgeting activity:* Categorize budget items into needs vs. wants; Make budgeting decisions to reach a monthly savings goal.

Module 2: Banking

- **Overview:** Students learn about the structure of the U.S. banking system, banking options, account types, features and fees as well as how to use and monitor an account (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Identify and categorize financial institutions according to their key characteristics
 - Describe the structure and function of the Federal Reserve system
 - Compare account types based on common account features and terms, such as liquidity, FDIC insurance, interest rate and required minimum balance
 - Evaluate different types of account fees and how they can occur
 - Examine the components of a check
 - Apply strategies for monitoring an online bank account
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Banking Options Practice:* Compare and contrast key characteristics of retail banks, credit unions, and online banks.
 - *Inside a Bank:* Explore the interior of a retail bank; learn about common bank personnel; ask common account questions to a bank customer service representative.
 - *Comparing Account Types:* Categorize account types according to their liquidity, interest rates, and required minimum balances.
 - *Real-life Account Fees:* Learn about common account fees – and how to avoid them - as an individual goes through a typical day using their checking account.
 - *Using an Online Account:* Examine a real-life online account; learn how to effectively monitor transactions & how to make sure your checking account is balanced.

Module 3: Payment Types

- **Overview:** Students learn about the variety of paper, plastic and electronic payment types available, and delve into the world of credit cards. Students gain a foundational understanding of credit cards, learning how to select and compare credit card offers, compare credit card fees, to interpret their credit card statement, and finally how to manage existing debt (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Interpret the differences in payment types, including debit cards, credit cards, merchant cards, cash advances, payday loans, and electronic payment options

- Select the appropriate payment option based on a given situation
- Compare aspects of credit card offers, by examining fees and features
- Understand how items purchased with credit can end up costing more
- Use a credit card bill to answer questions about debt repayment
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Payment Types Practice:* Select the most affordable payment option in each real-life scenario.
 - *Credit Offer Comparison:* Compare aspects of credit card offers, by examining fee structures, rewards, and other card features.
 - *Understanding a Credit Card Bill:* Use your credit card statement to answer questions about your credit card usage, payment schedule, and accrued interest.

Module 4: Credit Scores

- **Overview:** Students learn how a credit score is calculated and why it matters, how to monitor, manage and avoid damaging your credit score, the components of a typical credit report, and the implications of a good or bad credit history (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Understand the basics of credit scores, how credit scores are calculated, and the financial habits associated with certain scores.
 - Examine how financial behaviors positively or negatively impact a credit score (e.g. payment history and debt)
 - Compare and select financial decisions that protect or increase your credit score
 - Explain how your credit score can impact your future financial decisions and costs
 - Select the appropriate steps to monitor your credit report and fix errors
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Helping and Hurting Your Credit:* Determine the effect of a range of financial decisions on your credit score and select appropriate options to improve credit
 - *Explore a Credit Report:* Examine the components of a typical credit report.
 - *Keeping Tabs on Credit:* Prioritize the actions and steps an individual should take to monitor his/her credit report.

Module 5: Financing Higher Education

- **Overview:** Students learn about the basics of paying for school beyond high school, the actionable steps on the path to college, the types of financial aid and specific student loan types, and the financial aid process, including applying for aid through FAFSA (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**

- Explain the concept of return on investment and the considerations around borrowing to pay for education
- Explain the steps and actions that high school students can take to get on the path to college
- Categorize the differences in financial aid options, including the specific differences in unsubsidized and subsidized federal student loans
- Explain the importance of applying for federal aid through FAFSA, and become familiar with the FAFSA application and process
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Education ROI Exploration:* Compare the return on investment for different levels of education.
 - *The Path to Higher Education:* Explore the variety of next steps high school students can take to get onto the college preparedness track.
 - *Federal Loan Comparison:* Examine the key differences between subsidized & unsubsidized federal loans.
 - *Filling out FAFSA:* Explore components of the FAFSA application; answer questions about the FAFSA application process and common misconceptions by using the real-life FAFSA form.

Module 6: Renting vs. Owning

- **Overview:** Students learn about the differences between renting, leasing and owning, the basics of a mortgage, and choices between transportation and housing (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Compare the differences between renting, leasing and owning
 - Define & provide examples of appreciating and depreciating assets
 - Identify components of a standard housing lease agree
 - Recognize mortgage terms and the factors that can impact mortgage payments
 - Apply the benefits and considerations of renting, leasing and owning to different scenarios
 - Decide whether you can afford to buy a car by examining the explicit and implicit costs of buying a car
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Lease Agreement Exploration:* Examine the common terms, regulations, fees, & deposits found on a typical housing lease agreement.
 - *Real-Life Housing & Transportation Choices:* Select the appropriate housing and/or transportation for different individuals based on their current savings and personal situation.

- *Buying a Car Simulation:* Go thru the decision-making process of buying a car, from calculating your available monthly budget to selecting an appropriate car loan agreement.

Module 7: Insurance and Taxes

- **Overview:** Students explore common insurance types and terms, evaluate types of insurance and examine the role of insurance in mitigating risk and saving money. Students also learn about types of taxes and how they work, examine how taxes affect a typical paystub and fill out basic tax forms (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Describe the coverage provided by different insurance types; define common terminology associated with insurance policies
 - Calculate the costs and cost savings associated with different insurance policies, based on the deductible and premium amounts
 - Examine common taxes and tax forms
 - Analyze components of a paystub to answer questions about take-home pay, taxation and other common deductions
 - Practice completing end-of-year tax forms
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Insurance Policy Terms Practice:* Apply knowledge of common insurance policy terms by examining real-life examples.
 - *Calculate Out-of-Pocket Costs:* Decide which auto insurance policy will result in the least out-of-pocket costs in different scenarios.
 - *Paystub Practice:* Examine the components of a typical paystub; answer questions about taxes, insurance, and other deductions using an example paystub.
 - *Filling out a 1040EZ Form:* Complete your end-of-year tax returns using this step-by-step guide as you fill out a 1040EZ Form.

Module 8: Consumer Protection

- **Overview:** Students learn about identity theft, consumer fraud and consumer protection laws & organizations, how to protect personal information and how to spot identity theft (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Explain the purpose of consumer protection laws and organizations
 - Summarize how to spot, address and protect yourself from consumer fraud and identity theft

- Examine the importance of creating strong passwords for online accounts, and differentiate between various password strengths
- Decide when it is safe to provide your Social Security number; Decide what documents may put you at risk of identity theft
- Outline the steps you need to take to resolve suspected consumer fraud
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *Ways Identity Theft Can Happen:* Exploring how financial information can expose you identity theft.
 - *Sensitive Documents:* Make decisions about when it is appropriate to provide your Social Security number, or what documents may put you at risk of identity theft.
 - *Making a Strong Password:* Learn an easy step-by-step method for developing strong passwords; identify the components that make up secure passwords.
 - *Resolving Identity Theft:* Prioritize the actions and steps an individual should take to resolve identity theft.

Module 9: Investing

- **Overview:** Students learn about different investing terms, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, & index funds, and their role in investing. Students also learn the basics of retirement plans, the tradeoff between risk and return, as well as the effect of time and diversification on an investment portfolio diversification (30-45 minutes).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Explain the differences between key investing terms
 - Examine the process of issuing stocks & bonds
 - Compare and contrast investing options in terms of financial risk & return
 - Apply knowledge of financial risk to construct a diversified portfolio
 - Compare and contrast retirement plan options, and how time until retirement can affect the composition of an investment portfolio
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - *A Penny for Your Thoughts:* Make an investing decision and see how the compounding returns can affect your investment's value over the course of 1 month's time.
 - *Investing Options Practice:* Apply your knowledge of basic investing options by answering a series of questions.
 - *Risk vs. Return Practice:* Examine the tradeoff between risk and return by ranking different investment types according to their potential risk and return.
 - *Diversifying Your Portfolio:* Portfolio diversification activity where students create a low-, medium- and high-risk portfolio



Interactive Game: EverFi Life

- **Overview:** A real-world game simulation where students apply the financial knowledge and skills learned in the modules to financial decisions in High School, College and Post-College (1 hour).
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Apply financial knowledge to real-world situations around saving money, taxes, applying for financial aid, lifestyle choices.
 - Plan a budget based on needs, wants and financial goals.
 - Analyze potential pitfalls in a planned budget and manage both expected and unexpected expenses
- **Interactive Activities:**
 - Students are assessed on the application of their financial skills across three interactive game levels: High School, College and Post-College