

Curriculum Guide

Grow: Financial Planning for Life

Recommended Grade Level: 9th-12th graders in the U.S.

Total Time: 4 modules, 8-10 minutes each

Subject Fit: Homeroom, Economics, Finance, CTE

Standards Alignment: National Jump\$tart standards and select state standards

COURSE OVERVIEW

The *Grow: Financial Planning for Life* course is a 201 course dedicated to giving high school students the skills and knowledge they need to make strong decisions for their financial future, including their savings and retirement. Students who take this course may already have some basic financial literacy knowledge from taking our FinLit course, but they may also be coming into this 201 course with limited financial knowledge. *Grow: Financial Planning for Life* will help them identify important stages in their lives to save for, and how they can begin incorporating smart money habits into their lives now.

TOPIC AREAS

Financial Goals

- Students will gain confidence in making financial goals by identifying short, mid and long term goals and setting some for themselves.

Saving

- Students will learn the value of saving consistently over time and the benefits of compound interest.

Budgeting

- Students will understand budgeting practices such as the 50-30-20 and categories methods.

"Good" vs. "Bad" Debt

- Students will learn about how good debt can build equity and add value whereas bad debt can negatively affect credit and an ability to meet financial goals.

Retirement Plans

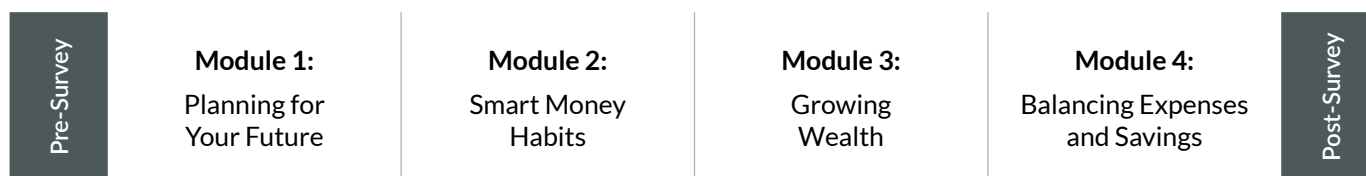
- Students will determine how interest rates and monthly savings habits can impact retirement account totals over time.

Balancing Expenses

- Students will learn how to balance expenses, emergencies and other financial responsibilities with saving for their future.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each module is accompanied by offline lesson plans and discussion guides to use in the classroom.



DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1: Planning for Your Future

Students will gain confidence in making financial goals for now and the future by helping a character named Lei set her goals and choose goals for themselves.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Describe the importance of using a plan to achieve financial goals
- Define short-term and long-term financial planning goals
- Explain the financial benefits of saving for retirement early
- Identify future financial goals

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Short-term and Long-term Goals	Students learn about and categorize the short and long term goals of Lei, the main character.
Saving for Retirement	Students learn the impact of compound interest by charting the long-term investment outcomes of making contributions to savings early and often.
Setting Personal Financial Goals	Students reflect on and set their own short-term, mid-term and long-term personal financial goals.

Module 2: Smart Money Habits

Students will feel confident in concepts of budgeting, the importance of emergency savings, how to create smart money habits for both themselves and their families, and what to do when they collect a paycheck.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Identify different types of budgeting methods
- Describe a plan for setting aside emergency savings
- Explain smart money habits and techniques
- Demonstrate how to manage money from a paycheck

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Emergency Savings	Students gain understanding of basic budgeting by categorizing purchases as needs or wants and identifying potential emergencies that can impact a budget.
Budgeting Towards Goals	Students play a budgeting game in which they help the main character, Akeem, meet his goals.
Talking to Family About Budgeting	Students gain confidence in discussing budgeting with family members by learning talking points to help have positive and productive family discussions.

Module 3: Growing Wealth

Students will learn how to grow their money to achieve goals for their future. Topics such as owning homes as an investment and saving for retirement will be discussed as well as the difference between good and bad debt.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Explain how owning your own home can be a financial investment
- Describe different retirement plan options
- Identify good versus bad debt and explain the differences between each type of debt

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Renting vs. Buying	Students discover the financial implications of renting or buying by choosing an appropriate college housing option for Taylor, the main character, and by weighing the pros and cons of buying a home.
"Good" vs "Bad" Debt	Students gain confidence in being able to identify good and bad debt through a categorization exercise.
Retirement Plan Options	Students analyze how interest rates and monthly savings habits can affect retirement account totals by interacting with a dynamic savings interaction. They also review several retirement account options.

Module 4: Balancing Expenses and Savings

Students will learn the value of balancing costs while saving for the future. Topics like managing navigating monthly expenses while saving for the future will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Describe ways to get back on track if savings goals get off course
- Develop a plan to balance expenses while saving
- Identify current financial goals

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Emergency Expenses	Students gain confidence in their ability to deal with unexpected expenses by helping Perry, the main character, prioritize his needs and help him meet his goals through an interactive decision-making game.
Long-term Financial Planning	Students learn how to write SMART goals while determining how to set them for Perry.