



Curriculum Guide

Build: Credit Fundamentals

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

Total Time: 40–60 mins

Subject Fit: Finance, Economics, CTE, Social Studies, Business

Standards Alignment: National Jump\$tart standards

COURSE OVERVIEW

The *Build: Credit Fundamentals* course teaches students the fundamentals of maintaining and managing a healthy credit score. The course will define and outline what good credit is and its long-term effects on a person's financial life. The course will demonstrate the fundamentals of applying for and acquiring credit cards and how to manage them effectively to build and enhance credit scores. The course will also enable learners to identify scams and inaccuracies on credit reports and how to deal with them effectively.

TOPIC AREAS

Creditworthiness

- Students will learn the importance of having a history of repaying loans and credit responsibly.

Acquiring Credit

- Students will understand that there are different types of credit cards, and each type has a unique APR, set of fees, and grace period that impacts the overall balance.

Growing Credit

- Students will learn cosigners may be required to secure a loan and start building a credit history.

Managing Credit

- Students will discover different credit reporting agencies to access credit reports and credit scores while learning the actions that impact them.

Addressing Credit Issues

- Students will identify discrepancies on credit reports that show potential identity fraud and how to report these concerns to the Federal Trade Commission, law enforcement, and appropriate lending institutions.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Pre-Survey	Module 1: What is Credit?	Module 2: Acquiring Credit	Module 3: Growing Credit	Module 4: Managing Credit	Module 5: Addressing Issues with Credit	Post-Survey
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Each module is accompanied by offline lesson plans and discussion guides to use in the classroom.

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1: What is Credit?

Students will gain an understanding of what credit is and what it means to be creditworthy.

Learning Objective:

Students will be able to...

- Define credit
- Understand the scope of the course and topics

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Purpose of Credit	Students learn about credit, why people use it, and why it matters from the main character, Tanda35, a virtual credit consultant.
Creditworthiness	Students learn about creditworthiness and the impact it can have on securing credit.

Module 2: Acquiring Credit

Students will understand the differences between being an authorized user on a credit card, having their own credit card, and having a debit card. Topics include how to apply for a credit card and the fees associated with them.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Summarize the long-term impact of credit
- Explain how to apply for a credit card
- Identify best practices for using credit cards

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Types of Accounts	Students gain an understanding of the different types of cards including debit cards, authorized user credit cards, student credit cards, and secured credit cards.
Applying for Credit	Students examine annual fees, Annual Percentage Rates (APRs), grace periods, and other fees of credit card offers. They will complete a secure card credit application for the main character, Martín.
Credit Best Practices	Students discover the impact of interest on credit balances. They use an interest calculator to help the main character, Martín, determine how long it will take him to pay off his balance.

Module 3: Growing Credit

Students will learn why they may need a cosigner for a loan. Topics such as choosing an appropriate cosigner and how cosigners can help with credit building will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Evaluate credit offers (car loan or student loan)
- Evaluate the need and usefulness of cosigners

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Three Cs of Cosigners	Students find Scott, the main character, needs a cosigner for his car loan. Through a drag-and-drop activity, students discover that those with proper collateral, capacity, and character make good cosigners.
Selecting a Cosigner	Students evaluate potential cosigners for Scott's loan. Through a series of evidence and questions, they select the best option based on the three Cs.

Module 4: Managing Credit

Students will investigate the difference between credit reports and credit scores. Topics like improving credit scores and interpreting credit reports will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Differentiate between a credit report and a credit score
- Identify factors that increase or decrease a credit score

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Credit Report vs. Credit Scores	Students will determine the difference between credit reports and credit scores as well as analyze the credit report for the main character, Angela.
Impacts on Credit	Students learn the implications of late payments, bills going to collection agencies, and credit ratio. They will help Angela choose actions she can take to improve her credit score.

Module 5: Addressing Issues with Credit

Students will investigate the difference between credit reports and credit scores. Topics like improving credit scores and interpreting credit reports will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Identify credit-related scams and fraud
- Identify best practices in dealing with inaccuracies in a credit report

Activity Topic	Activity Description
Finding and Reporting Identity Theft	Students learn how to access credit reports and analyze the credit report of the main character, Silvia, for inaccuracies. Then, they will identify how to report identity theft.
Preventing Identity Theft	Students explore identity theft prevention measures. Through a card game, students will analyze scenarios and determine whether or not specific actions are protections from credit card fraud.