

Introduction to Personal Finance

Cecil County Public Schools

While studying Personal Finance, students will investigate a wide variety of concepts to help them manage their financial future. Students will learn to develop goals, create spending plans, manage earnings, navigate credit and debt, make informed financially responsible decisions, and learn ways to save and invest to achieve long-term financial goals.

Utilizing Maryland State Standards for Personal Financial Literacy Education, students will focus on developing the content knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions. Materials from *Take Charge Today*, *Next Gen Personal Finance*, and *The Stock Market Game* will be used to engage students in relevant instructional experiences.

Personal Finance teachers will have access to a Scope and Sequence providing an overview course and aligned instructional materials. Each unit is represented by a concept focus that serves as a lens through which the content will be explored. The units are intended to be taught in the identified sequence and conceptually as indicated below:

Unit 1 - Career Education and Income

- Long term and short term financial and career goals
- Resume, cover letters, and interviewing
- Planning for higher education and career
- FAFSA, financial aid, and student loans

Unit 2 – Making Informed Financial Decisions

- Reading a paycheck statement
- Income and expense statements
- Taxes
- Banking, checking, and savings

Unit 3 – Managing Money and Debt

- Credit cards
- Credit reports and scores
- Mortgages
- Auto loans
- Identity theft and fraud

Unit 4 – Managing Risk and Preserving Wealth

- The Stock Market
- Investments and investment strategies
- Insurance – auto and life
- Philanthropy
- Estate planning