

# New Jersey Virtual School

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## Personal Finance Syllabus revised 11/25/14

### Description:

What is money? What is a bank? How can I save for my future goals? Personal Financial Literacy charts the history of money, how banks operate, sources of income, what we spend our money on, and much more. Learn about checking and savings accounts, how to research stocks, and investing your hard-earned money. Examine income taxes, credit cards, bankruptcy, fraud and identity theft, different types of insurance, and career planning. Students learn the process of creating a budget and personal financial plan. Interactive activities, videos and projects make this course both interesting and relevant.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Estimated Completion Time:** 16-18 weeks (60 hours)

### Additional Materials Required:

- Access to Microsoft Word or other word processing software.
- Windows Media Player
- Java
- Adobe Flash

### Major Topics and Concepts:

- What is Money?
- The Global Economy
- The Local Economy
- What is a Bank?
- What is Interest?
- Checking Accounts
- Saving Accounts
- What are Investments?
- Buying Stock
- Mutual Funds
- Saving & Investing for Growth
- What is Credit?
- Types of Credit
- Credit Reports
- Credit Risks & Bankruptcy
- Identity Theft
- Fraud & Consumer Protection
- What are Taxes?
- Taxes on Income
- Taxes on Interest
- Taxes on Investments
- Reducing Your Tax Burden
- What is Insurance?
- Auto Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance and Estate Planning
- What is a Financial Plan?
- Needs and Wants (Step 1)
- Financial Goals (Step 2)
- Income and Spending (Step 3)
- Creating a Budget (Step 4)
- Modifying & Monitoring (Step 5)
- Careers and Education
- Owning Your Own Business

### Course Assessment and Participation Requirements:

Besides engaging students in challenging curriculum, the course guides students to reflect on their learning and to evaluate their progress through a variety of assessments. Assessments can be in the form of self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, writing assignments, projects, research papers, essays, labs, oral assessments, and discussions. Instructors evaluate progress and provide interventions through the variety of assessments built into a course, as well as through contact with the student in other venues.