

Financial Education Standards

Topic	Objective by the end of this module participants will:	To achieve the objective, participants will be able to:	Class discussions may include:
Financial goal setting	Be able to set financial goals and meet them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify important short and long-term financial goals • Identify steps to reach their goals • Create a written plan to accomplish their goals • Identify benchmarks that help track success with respect to reaching their goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial hopes and dreams • Talk about personal views on money • Habits and customs when they were growing up • How their current family relates to money • Managing money in the household • Changes they would like to make to better use their money • The difference between short- and long-term goals
Controlling your money	Understand how to manage their money successfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify savings goals they have • Identify relevant income and expense categories they deal with • Manage cash flow to pay bills on time • Create a savings and spending plan to estimate monthly income and expenses • Identify strategies they can employ to decrease spending and increase income • Track their periodic expenses • Adjust their savings and spending plans as life-situation changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing their money because “every dollar has a job to do” • Sharing ideas about how to develop the habit of writing down all income and expenses • How controlling their money better can help you increase savings to meet their goals • The importance of planning their expenses and checking their plan against reality • The importance of “paying yourself first” • Living within their means • Strategies to pay down debt quickly • Why reducing debt is a form of saving
Checking accounts	Understand how to use a checking account responsibly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State the benefits of using a checking account • Determine which checking account works best for them • Identify the steps involved in opening a checking account • Deposit and withdraw money from a checking account • Write checks correctly to pay bills • Reconcile their checking account by using a check register • Avoid overdrafts and other necessary fees • How to bank online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways they can assure that their money is safe • Why using a checking account makes sense for them • Accessing money through debit cards, checks or ATMs • Automatically depositing pay checks and benefit checks • The amount they save by using a checking account vs. using check cashers • Purchasing what they need using online banking • Strategies to avoid overdraft fees • Strategies to ensure they pay bills on time • Availability of Bank on Seattle-King County accounts • Experiences they have had with a bank or credit union in the past • General differences between credit unions and banks

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Savings	Understand the importance of saving money to improve their life situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of saving • How to get started with savings • Identify different ways to save including regular savings accounts, CDs, IRAs, savings bonds, and other savings options • Describe the concept of interest • Determine goals towards which they want to save 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing their money, the miracle of compound interest • Choose the best savings option to achieve their goal • Paying off debt to help them meet a savings goal • Connections between saving and building credit • Connections between saving and borrowing for major purchases • Connections between saving and building wealth
Credit and credit history	Understand how to establish and maintain good credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to get and read their credit report • Build credit, one step at a time • Repair credit • Acquire secured and unsecured loans • Understand factors creditors look for when making credit decisions • Know the costs and benefits of borrowing money • Apply for credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why good credit can work for them • Why using “rent to own”, payday loans and refund anticipation loans may not be worth it • The pros and cons of having your credit in both your and your spouse’s/partner’s name • Credit building steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get a credit card. Buy something with it, and then pay it off quickly. 2. Get a small loan from your bank. Pay it back on time
Credit Cards	Be able to use credit cards wisely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and when to use a credit card • Choose a credit card that meets their needs and has best interest rates • Know what a credit card costs • Identify steps to take when a credit card is lost or stolen • How to read your monthly statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciding for yourself whether you need a credit card • Typical credit card tricks and scams • The risks of using a credit card too much • Questions to ask about annual fees, interest rates, grace periods, over limit fees
Consumer Rights	Know their legal rights and how to protect their finances and identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect their money • Understand the importance of protecting their identity • Have the ability to advocate for their rights • Understand consumer protection laws, consumer protection agencies, and discrimination in lending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules to protect their money in the bank • Rules to protect them when applying for a loan • Ways to monitor their finances and identity • Online banking risks; phishing, unsecured sites • What to do when their identity is stolen • Preparing for financial disaster
Consumer loans	Know how they could use consumer loans responsibly to make a large purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiate between types of consumer loans • Understand the factors lenders use to make loan decisions • Describe the cost of borrowing money • Compare the benefits and disadvantages of different loan offers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picking a loan that meets their needs • Difference between installment loans and rent to own services • Things to know when borrowing to buy a car • Advantages and disadvantages of borrowing against a home

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Home ownership	Buy a home when they are ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the benefits of renting vs. owning a home • Identify steps required to buy a home • Purchase a recent merge Credit Report (30 days) • Create a homeownership action plan • Complete Washington State Housing Finance Commission homeownership workshop • Participate in at least 1 individual one-on-one homeownership counseling session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions to ask before deciding to buy a home • Keeping their home and building value • Basic terms used in mortgage transactions • Advantages and disadvantages of different mortgage options
Personal taxes	Know how to maximize their tax return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how to complete a W-4 to maximize their withholdings • Understand how to file for the EITC and other tax credits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax filing and tax credits for undocumented workers • Tax credits for children and families • Getting a big tax refund is not necessarily a good thing • Split refunds as an opportunity to save • Alternatives to high cost tax preparation (availability of free tax prep through UWKC and ACORN EITC campaigns)
(Optional) Insurance	Be able to describe the benefits of insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the value of rental insurance, driver's insurance, disability insurance, homeowners insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance options / pro and con