

Washington State Financial Education Standards Chart

Grades 9–12

Spending and Saving

Develop a plan for spending and saving.

9.SS	10.SS	11.SS	12.SS
1. Use a plan to manage spending and achieve financial goals.	1. Create a plan to manage spending and achieve financial goals.	1. Specify how monetary and non-monetary assets can contribute to net worth.	1. Specify how monetary and non-monetary assets can contribute to net worth.
2. Identify how charitable giving fits into a spending plan.	2. Determine if and how charitable giving fits into a spending plan.	2. Analyze how changes in life circumstances can affect a personal spending plan.	2. Investigate changes in personal spending behavior that contribute to wealth building.
		3. Investigate changes in personal spending behavior that contribute to wealth building.	

Develop a system for keeping and using financial records.

9.SS	10.SS	11.SS	12.SS
3. Investigate checking, savings, and credit card accounts that financial institutions provide.	3. Compare checking, savings, and credit card accounts that financial institutions provide.	4. Identify expenses that are tax deductible and those that are not.	3. Differentiate between an expense that is tax deductible and one that is not.
		5. Use a system to retain evidence of tax-deductible expenditures.	4. Devise a system to retain evidence of tax-deductible expenditures.
		6. Identify the records required to claim possible tax deductions and credits.	5. Investigate the records required to claim possible tax deductions or credits.

Spending and Saving

Describe how to use different payment methods.

9.SS	10.SS	11.SS	12.SS
4. List the risks and protections of checks, prepaid cards, debit cards, gift cards, and online or mobile payment systems.	4. Summarize the risks and protections of checks, prepaid cards, debit cards, gift cards, and online or mobile payment systems.	7. Compare the costs of cashing a check with various third parties such as banks and credit unions, check-cashing services, and retail outlets.	6. Compare the features and costs of online and mobile bill payment services offered by different institutions.
5. List the features and costs of personal checking accounts offered by different financial institutions.	5. Compare the features and costs of personal checking accounts offered by different financial institutions.		7. Compare the costs of cashing a check with various third parties, such as banks and credit unions, check-cashing services, and retail outlets.
6. Identify the costs of cashing a check with various third parties, such as banks and credit unions, check-cashing services, and retail outlets.	6. Identify the costs of cashing a check with various third parties, such as banks and credit unions, check-cashing services, and retail outlets.		8. Demonstrate how to schedule and manage bill payments.
			9. Write a check.
			10. Reconcile the balance of a checking account and verify the balance of a debit account.
			11. Explain how to verify printed and online account statements for accuracy.

Spending and Saving

Apply consumer skills to spending and saving decisions.

9.SS	10.SS	11.SS	12.SS
7. Demonstrate how to use comparison shopping skills to buy or finance a major purchase.	7. Demonstrate how to use comparison shopping skills to buy or finance a major purchase.	8. Demonstrate how to use comparison shopping skills to buy or finance a major purchase.	12. Demonstrate how to use comparison shopping skills to buy or finance a major purchase.
8. Research the cost of expenses associated with postsecondary education.	8. Research the cost of expenses associated with postsecondary education and the financial impact of dual-credit or technical training opportunities in high school.	9. Compare the cost of expenses associated with a postsecondary education at three institutions.	13. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of owning a house versus renting a house.
9. Evaluate specific charities based on purpose, management, outcomes or results, and reputation.	9. Research the costs and benefits of a new versus used car (e.g., maintenance, safety, financing, and gas mileage) versus alternative forms of transportation.	10. Compare the costs and benefits of a new versus used car (e.g., maintenance, safety, financing, and gas mileage) with public transportation.	14. Evaluate specific charities based on purpose, management, outcomes or results, and reputation.
	10. Evaluate specific charities based on purpose, management, outcomes or results, and reputation.	11. Evaluate specific charities based on purpose, management, outcomes or results, and reputation.	

Credit and Debt

Analyze the costs and benefits of various types of credit.

9.CD	10.CD	11.CD	12.CD
1. Identify various types of student loans (public and private) as a means of paying for postsecondary education.	1. Compare the cost of borrowing \$1,000 by means of different consumer credit options.	1. Identify how credit card grace periods, methods of interest calculation (e.g., annual percentage rate), and fees affect borrowing costs.	1. Explain how credit card grace periods, methods of interest calculation (e.g., annual percentage rate) and fees affect borrowing costs.
2. Identify alternatives to loans as a means of paying for postsecondary education.	2. Compare various types of student loans (public and private) as a means of paying for postsecondary education.	2. List the types of information needed when applying for a credit card.	2. Categorize the types of information needed when applying for credit.
	3. Explore alternatives to loans such as educational laddering opportunities (i.e., acquiring skills incrementally as a person moves along their career path) as a means of paying for postsecondary education.	3. Compare the total cost of reducing a credit card balance to zero with minimum payments versus above-minimum payments, all other terms being equal and no further purchases being made.	3. Illustrate the total cost of reducing a credit card balance to zero with minimum payments versus above-minimum payments, all other terms being equal and no further purchases being made.
		4. Identify loan options for paying for a major purchase.	4. Decide the most cost-effective loan option for paying for a car.
		5. Investigate alternatives to loans as a means of paying for postsecondary education, including scholarships and grants.	5. Compare alternatives to loans as a means of paying for postsecondary education.
		6. Analyze the costs, benefits, and impact of investment in post-high school education by career option.	6. Predict the potential consequences of deferred payment of student loans.
		7. Explain the effect of debt on net worth.	7. Differentiate between adjustable- and fixed-rate mortgages.
			8. Explain the effect of debt on a person's net worth.

Credit and Debt

Summarize a borrower’s rights and responsibilities related to credit reports

9.CD	10.CD	11.CD	12.CD
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	8. Identify online information about the Fair Credit Reporting Act.	9. Summarize online information about the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
		9. Explain the importance of credit reports to borrowers and to lenders.	10. Explain the usefulness of credit reports to borrowers and to lenders.
		10. Give examples of permissible uses of a credit report other than granting credit.	11. Give examples of permissible uses of a credit report other than granting credit.
		11. Identify the primary organizations that maintain and provide consumer credit records.	12. Identify the primary organizations that maintain and provide consumer credit records.
		12. List the information in a credit report and how long it is retained.	13. Categorize the information in a credit report and how long it is retained.
		13. Explain the rights that people have to examine their credit reports (e.g., free annual credit report).	14. Investigate ways that a negative credit report can affect a consumer’s options.
		14. Identify ways that a negative credit report can affect a consumer’s options.	15. Outline the process of disputing inaccurate credit report data.
		15. List the process of disputing inaccurate credit report data.	16. Summarize factors that affect a particular credit scoring system.
		16. Identify factors that affect a particular credit scoring system.	17. Predict how a credit score affects creditworthiness and the cost of credit.
		17. Report how a credit score affects creditworthiness and the cost of credit.	
		18. Investigate how student loan obligations differ from other kinds of debt.	

Credit and Debt

Apply strategies to avoid or correct debt management problems.

9.CD	10.CD	11.CD	12.CD
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	18. Develop a personal financial plan to manage debt, including working directly with lenders.
			19. Examine or research the types of services that financial institutions or consumer credit counseling agencies offer for debt restructuring.
			20. Investigate the purpose of bankruptcy and its possible negative effects on assets, employability, and credit cost and availability.
			21. Investigate how student loan obligations differ from other kinds of debt.

Summarize major consumer credit laws.

9.CD	10.CD	11.CD	12.CD
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	22. Summarize online information about the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.
			23. Research online information about consumer credit rights available from the Federal Trade Commission.
			24. Give examples of how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau protects

Credit and Debt

9.CD	10.CD	11.CD	12.CD
			borrowers and provides information about credit issues.
			25. Research state agencies with responsibility for consumer protection.
			26. Describe debtors' and creditors' rights related to wage garnishment and repossession when an overdue debt is not paid.
			27. Give examples of legal, illegal, and fraudulent debt collection practices covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Employment and Income

Explore job and career options.

9.EI	10.EI	11.EI	12.EI
1. Explore a career plan that aligns with personal interests, financial goals, and desired lifestyle.	1. Identify how non-income factors such as child-care options, cost of living, and work conditions can influence job choice.	1. Analyze how economic and other conditions can affect income and career opportunities and the need for lifelong training and education.	1. Revise a career plan that aligns with personal interests, financial goals, and desired lifestyle.
2. Create a template for a résumé and cover letter.	2. Outline a career plan that aligns with personal interests, financial goals, and desired lifestyle.	2. Discuss how non-income factors such as child-care options, cost of living, and work conditions can influence job choice.	2. Develop a résumé and cover letter for a specific job of interest.
3. Compare how employment opportunities vary across educational levels.	3. Develop a résumé and cover letter for a specific job of interest.	3. Modify a career plan that aligns with personal interests, financial goals, and desired lifestyle.	
4. Explore how productivity among workers relates to workers’ wages and job retention.		4. Develop a résumé and cover letter for a specific job of interest.	
5. Explore the risks, costs, and rewards of starting a business.			
6. Analyze the costs, benefits, and impact of investment in postsecondary education by career option.			

Compare sources of personal income and compensation.

9.EI	10.EI	11.EI	12.EI
Not applicable at this grade level.	4. Give examples of employee benefits and explain why they are forms of compensation.	5. Summarize employee benefits and explain why they are forms of compensation.	3. Analyze employee benefits and explain why they are forms of compensation.

Employment and Income

	6. List required employer contributions and additional benefits that an employer might offer.	4. Differentiate between required employer contributions and additional benefits that an employer might offer.
	7. Identify the monetary and non-monetary value of employee benefits in addition to wages and salaries.	5. Analyze the monetary and non-monetary value of employee benefits in addition to wages and salaries.
		6. Calculate the future income needed to maintain a current standard of living.
		7. Identify typical sources of income in retirement.

Analyze factors that affect net income.

9.EI	10.EI	11.EI	12.EI
7. Differentiate between a progressive and regressive tax.	5. Complete IRS form W-4 (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate) to determine the optimal amount to withhold for personal income tax.	8. Complete IRS form W-4 (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate) to determine the optimal amount to withhold for personal income tax.	8. Revise IRS form W-4 (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate) to determine the optimal amount to withhold for personal income tax.
8. Illustrate the relationship between income level and income tax liability.	6. Differentiate between gross, net, and taxable income.	9. List circumstances that would call for the adjustment of the income tax withholding allowance.	9. Analyze circumstances that would call for the adjustment of the income tax withholding allowance.
	7. Complete IRS Form 1040EZ, Form 1040, and applicable state income tax forms.	10. Examine the benefits of participating in employer-sponsored retirement savings plans and health care savings plans.	10. Examine the benefits of participating in employer-sponsored retirement savings plans and health care savings plans.
		11. Complete IRS Form 1040EZ, Form 1040, and applicable state income tax forms.	

Investing

Explain how investing may build wealth and help meet financial goals

9.I	10.I	11.I	12.I
1. Examine strategies for investing as part of a comprehensive financial plan.	1. Define the time value of money and explain how money invested regularly over time may grow exponentially.	1. Compare strategies for investing as part of a comprehensive financial plan.	1. Compare strategies for investing as part of a comprehensive financial plan.
2. Compare the impact of delaying investment for retirement to beginning investing early.	2. Calculate and compare the time value of money in the following situations: (a) Given a rate of return and number of years, calculate the future value of a lump sum investment. (b) Given a rate of return and number of years, calculate the lump sum amount an investor must invest today to reach a specific financial goal at a future date. (c) Given a rate of return, number of years, and frequency of periodic payments, calculate the end (future) value of an investment. (d) Given a rate of return, number of years, and frequency of payments, calculate the periodic payment amount needed to reach a specific investment goal.	2. Give examples of how employer matching contributions to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans and vesting schedules affect participating employees.	2. Describe the importance of various sources of income in retirement, including Social Security, employer-sponsored retirement savings plans, and personal investments.
	3. Compare strategies for investing as part of a comprehensive financial plan.		
	4. Illustrate how the time value of money applies to retirement planning.		

Investing

Evaluate investment alternatives.

9.I	10.I	11.I	12.I
3. Identify types of investments appropriate for different objectives such as liquidity, income, and growth.	5. Compare types of investments appropriate for different objectives such as liquidity, income, and growth.	3. Identify fees for buying, owning, and selling stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.	3. Differentiate between diversification and asset allocation.
		4. List the advantages of taxable, tax-deferred, and tax-advantaged investments for new savers, including Roth IRAs (individual retirement accounts) and employer-sponsored retirement plans.	4. Compare fees for buying, owning, and selling stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.
			5. Investigate reasons to use retirement savings plans and health savings accounts.
			6. Compare the advantages of taxable, tax-deferred, and tax-advantaged investments for new savers, including Roth IRAs (individual retirement accounts) and employer-sponsored savings plans.

Demonstrate how to buy and sell investments.

9.I	10.I	11.I	12.I
4. Give examples of how economic conditions and business factors affect the market value of a stock.	6. Give examples of how economic conditions and business factors affect the market value of a stock.	5. Assess how economic conditions and business factors affect the market value of a stock.	7. Give examples of how economic conditions and business factors affect the market value of a stock.

Investing

9.I	10.I	11.I	12.I
5. List the advantages and disadvantages of buying and selling investments through various channels, including employer-sponsored retirement plans, investment advisors, brokerage firms, and direct purchase.	7. List various sources of information, including prospectuses, online resources, and financial publications to gather data about specific investments.	6. Compare various sources of information, including prospectuses, online resources, and financial publications to gather data about specific investments.	8. Use various sources of information, including prospectuses, online resources, and financial publications to gather data about specific investments.
	8. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of buying and selling investments through various channels, including employer-sponsored retirement plans, investment advisors, brokerage firms, and direct purchase.	7. Explore evaluation strategies, including risk tolerance, for selecting investments that meet the objectives of a personal financial plan.	9. Devise evaluation strategies, including risk tolerance, for selecting investments that meet the objectives of a personal financial plan.
		8. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of buying and selling investments through various channels, including employer-sponsored retirement plans, investment advisors, brokerage firms, and direct purchase.	10. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of buying and selling investments through various channels including employer-sponsored retirement plans, investment advisors, brokerage firms, and direct purchase.

Investigate how agencies protect investors and regulate financial markets and products

9.I	10.I	11.I	12.I
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	11. Identify warning signs of investment fraud.

Investing

12. Identify steps and resources a consumer can take to prevent investment fraud.

13. Identify the roles of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington Department of Financial Institutions, and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in addressing investment fraud.

Risk Management & Insurance

Identify common types of risks and basic risk management methods.

9.RM	10.RM	11.RM	12.RM
1. Evaluate the costs and benefits of an extended warranty.	1. Identify circumstances in which self-insurance is appropriate.	1. Give examples of circumstances in which self-insurance is appropriate.	1. Research insurance for the types of risks that young adults might face after graduation.
2. Recommend insurance for various types of risk.	2. Give examples of insurance for the types of risks that young adults might face.	2. Evaluate the costs and benefits of an extended warranty.	2. Investigate consequences of insurance fraud.
		3. Recommend insurance for various types of risk.	3. Describe the functions of the agency or agencies that regulate insurance in one's state of residence.

Justify reasons to use property and liability insurance

9.RM	10.RM	11.RM	12.RM
3. List the main types of auto insurance coverage.	3. Differentiate among the main types of auto insurance coverage.	4. Differentiate among the main types of auto insurance coverage.	4. Calculate payment expected on an auto insurance claim after applying exclusions and deductibles.
4. Determine the legal minimum amounts of auto insurance coverage required in one's state of residence and the recommended optimal amounts.	4. List factors that determine auto insurance premiums and the factors that cause them to change.	5. Analyze factors that determine auto insurance premiums and the factors that cause them to change.	5. Identify the factors that influence the cost of homeowners' insurance.
	5. Compare the legal minimum amounts of auto insurance coverage required in	6. Calculate payment expected on an auto insurance claim after applying exclusions and deductibles.	6. Analyze the factors that influence the cost of renters' insurance.

Risk Management & Insurance

9.RM	10.RM	11.RM	12.RM
	Washington state and the recommended optimal amounts.		

Justify reasons to use health, disability, long-term care, and life insurance.

9.RM	10.RM	11.RM	12.RM
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	7. Analyze the conditions under which it is appropriate for young adults to have health, disability, or life insurance.
			8. Investigate health, dental, and vision insurance coverage options.
			9. Identify government programs that provide financial assistance for income loss due to illness, disability, or premature death.
			10. Compare sources of health and disability insurance coverage, including employee benefit plans.
			11. Explain the purpose of long-term care insurance.

Financial Decision-Making

Recognize the responsibilities associated with personal financial decisions.

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
1. Identify how individual responsibility for financial well-being will change over a lifetime with changing life circumstances.	1. Predict how individual responsibility for financial well-being will change over a lifetime with changing life circumstances.	1. Discuss how individual responsibility for financial well-being will change over a lifetime with changing life circumstances.	1. Consider how personal financial decisions might affect society.
2. Identify ways that financial responsibility is different for individuals with and without dependents.	2. Compare how financial responsibility is different for individuals with and without dependents.	2. Develop a definition of wealth based on personal values, priorities, and goals.	2. Revise your definition of wealth based on personal values, priorities, and goals.
3. Consider how personal financial decisions might affect an individual.	3. Consider how personal financial decisions might affect family members.		
	4. Consider different definitions of wealth based on personal values, priorities, and goals.		

Use reliable resources when making financial decisions

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
4. List sources of financial information that are objective, accurate, and current.	5. Evaluate whether financial information is objective, accurate, and current.	3. Evaluate whether financial information is objective, accurate, and current.	3. Explain why an individual or household may want to consult with an attorney, financial planner, or tax advisor for financial advice or representation.
	6. List factors to consider when selecting a financial professional.	4. Summarize factors to consider when selecting a finance professional.	

Financial Decision-Making

Summarize major consumer protection laws

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	4. Research where to find credible sources of up-to-date information about consumer rights and responsibilities.
			5. Investigate sources of assistance in resolving consumer disputes.

Make criterion-based financial decisions by systematically considering alternatives and consequences.

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
5. Identify elements of a contingency plan to handle events (e.g., car breakdown or phone loss) that might affect personal finances on short notice.	7. Develop a contingency plan to handle events (e.g., car breakdown or phone loss) that might affect personal finances on short notice.	5. Develop a backup plan for a specific financial goal when circumstances change (e.g., job loss, illness, major gift, or inheritance).	6. Predict how inflation will affect the outcomes of financial decisions, as well as the price of goods and services.
		6. Analyze expenses and risks of alternative financing or predatory lending options such as payday loans and credit card cash advances.	7. Analyze how sales and property taxes affect financial decisions, such as buying a car or a house.
			8. Develop a backup plan for a specific financial goal when circumstances change (e.g., job loss, illness, major gift, or inheritance).
			9. Analyze expenses and risks of alternative financing options (e.g., payday loans and credit card cash advances).

Financial Decision-Making

10. Develop a contingency plan to handle events (e.g., car breakdown or a phone loss) that might affect personal finances on short notice.

Apply communication strategies when discussing financial issues

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	7. Assess the value of sharing financial goals and personal financial information with a partner before combining households.	11. Assess the importance of sharing financial goals and personal financial information with a partner before combining households.
		8. Demonstrate how to negotiate the sales price of a major purchase, such as a car or a motorcycle.	12. Demonstrate how to negotiate the sales price of a major purchase, such as a car or a motorcycle.

Analyze the requirements of contractual obligations.

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
Not applicable at this grade level.	Not applicable at this grade level.	9. Identify the factors that make a contract legal and binding.	13. Summarize the factors that make a contract legal and binding.
		10. Summarize the terms of a credit card or other loan agreement.	14. Compare the terms of a credit card or other loan agreement.

Financial Decision-Making

	11. Demonstrate how to find information on employment law to resolve an employee issue with an employer.	15. Summarize the terms of a homeowners' or renters' insurance policy.
		16. Summarize the terms of a health insurance plan.
		17. Summarize local and state tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities that are covered in the terms of a standard rental lease agreement.
		18. Research the use of small claims court for the redress of a consumer dispute.

Control personal information.

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
6. Understand identity theft prevention strategies.	8. Understand identity theft prevention strategies.	12. Identify where to find the steps to resolve identity theft problems as recommended by the Federal Trade Commission and relevant financial institutions.	19. Outline steps to resolve identity theft problems as recommended by the Federal Trade Commission and relevant financial institutions.
		13. Understand identity theft prevention strategies.	20. Apply identity theft prevention strategies.
		14. List entities that have a right to request certain personal financial data.	21. List entities that have a right to request certain personal financial data.
		15. Investigate consumer safeguards for mobile and online banking.	22. Investigate consumer safeguards for mobile and online banking.

Financial Decision-Making

Use a personal financial plan or budget.

9.FD	10.FD	11.FD	12.FD
7. List the main components of a simple will.	9. List the main components of a simple will.	16. Develop a personal financial plan or budget, including goals, spending and saving plan, investing plan, insurance plan, a net worth statement, and an estate plan.	23. Develop a personal financial plan or budget, including goals, spending and saving plan, investing plan, insurance plan, a net worth statement, and an estate plan.
8. Explain the purpose of a durable power of attorney for health care (living will)	10. Explain the purpose of a durable power of attorney for health care (living will)	17. List the main components of a simple will.	24. Devise a strategy to monitor the personal financial plan or budget and make modifications as needed for changing circumstances.
		18. Explain the purpose of a durable power of attorney for health care (living will)	25. List the main components of a simple will.
			26. Identify how money and property will be distributed in one’s state of residence when a person dies without a valid will.
			27. Explain the purpose of a durable power of attorney for health care (living will).