

THE ECONOMICS EDUCATOR

News from the Kansas Council for Economic Education

It's the Spring Semester...time for student competitions!

- LifeSmarts
- Economics Challenge
- Economics Poster Contest
- Personal Finance Challenge
- Stock Market Game

See Page 2 for Details



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR KANSAS STUDENTS

KCEE Financial Literacy Essay Contest

\$5,000+ First Place Scholarship To Be Awarded & More

Kansas High School students who have participated in any one of KCEE's financial literacy programs (see page 2 for full list) at their current high school are invited to enter a Financial Literacy Essay Contest sponsored by the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner. Scholarships will be awarded in the following amounts: 3rd place: \$2,000; 2nd place: \$3,000 and 1st place: \$5,000. Additionally, the first place recipient will be considered for an additional scholarship in the amounts listed above in an overall state-wide competition with entries from other Kansas agencies. That means the KCEE winner will be in contention for up to a \$10,000 scholarship!

Entry forms and essays due February 12. For more details and to enter, visit

<https://kcee.wichita.edu/spring-2025-essay-scholarship-contest>

Save these Dates
2025 Summer
Workshops

Financial Fitness & Social
Studies Workshops

June 9-11

Wichita State University

Financial Literacy Bootcamp

July 29-31

Fort Hays State University

and more to come!

Be sure to follow us online!



@KansasEconEd



www.kcee.wichita.edu



@KansasEconEd



@KSecon

KCEE'S STUDENT ACTIVITIES ALL AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE!

2024-25 Event Calendar



SMG sessions will be starting soon. The five sessions for this year are...

Spring: January 13 - May 3 & February 3 - April 11

Full year: October 7 - April 11

Remember...there are prizes for the top 3 teams in each division (elementary/middle school/high school) for each session. Learn more and sign up at

www.stockmarketgame.org



InvestWrite®, an innovative national writing competition, is a program of the SIFMA Foundation offered exclusively to teachers and students participating in The Stock Market Game™. The spring essay prompt and deadline will be announced soon. Learn more at www.investwrite.org



LifeSmarts, the nation's premier consumer program, provides real-world education for students who learn about core consumer topics and develop critical thinking skills. **Participants focus on five key topic areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance, and technology.** The Kansas Varsity champion will represent the state, with travel expenses paid by KCEE and our generous donors, at the national competition in San Diego. **New this year...there will be an online JV national championship!** Learn more at www.lifesmarts.org.

Kansas Varsity Competition Schedule:

November 1 - January 22 - Capstone Test Period

January 29 - Kansas Championship

April 24-27- National Championship in Chicago

Kansas Junior Varsity Competition Schedule

November 15 - January 31 - Capstone Test Period

TBD - Kansas Championship

TBA - National Championships

K-8 Economics Poster Contest



No student is too young to learn basic economic concepts! And, we can't think of a better way to teach K-8 students than through an engaging learning exercise. Give your students an opportunity to illustrate their understanding of an economic concept using their creativity and art skills in a colorful drawing. The contest starts on October 1. Entry deadline: April 1



The National Personal Finance Challenge (NPFC) is a nationwide competition that provides high school students the opportunity to build and demonstrate their knowledge of money management. Teams showcase their expertise in the concepts of earning income, spending, saving, investing, managing credit, and managing risk.

The top HS teams from the Fall and Spring sessions will be invited to regionals in the spring, with the top performing regional teams competing for the state championship. The Kansas High School champion will represent the state at the National Personal Finance Challenge in Cleveland, with travel expenses paid by KCEE and our generous donors.

Top Middle School teams from both challenge sessions will be invited to the state championship. Regionals will only be held at the High School level.

Kansas High School Competition Schedule

Spring Online Challenge: February 10 - March 21

State Championships: April 9

National Championship: June 1-2, Atlanta

Kansas Middle School Competition Schedule

Spring Online Challenge: February 10 - March 21

State Championships: TBA

Learn more online at

<https://financechallenge.unl.edu/Kansas/Welcome>



The National Economics Challenge (NEC) is the country's only economics competition of its kind for high school students. It tests micro and macroeconomic principles as well as knowledge of the world economy. High school students compete in two divisions: David Ricardo for students new to economics and the Econ Challenge, and Adam Smith, for AP, IB and Honors students or those who have competed previously in the Econ Challenge.

The Kansas champions in each division compete in an online semi-finals, with the 4 top teams invited to the national finals in Atlanta, with expenses paid by the Council for Economic Education

Kansas Economic Challenge Schedule

Spring Online Challenge: February 10 - March 21

State Championships: April 2

National Semi-Finals: April 21-24

Learn more online at:

<https://econchallenge.unl.edu/Kansas/Welcome>



Financial Literacy Scholarship Essay Contest

Kansas high school students who have participated in a KCEE financial literacy program at their current school are eligible to enter.

Scholarship Awards

- 1st Place - \$5,000
- 2nd Place - \$3,000
- 3rd Place - \$2,000

KCEE's first place entry will have the opportunity to win up to an additional \$5,000

Deadline: February 12, 2025

Learn more and Enter

<https://kcee.wichita.edu/spring-2025-essay-scholarship-contest>

Thanks to our Sponsor

This contest is made possible thanks to the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner, A Division of the Kansas Insurance Department.

Learn more at smartinvestks.com



KANSAS SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

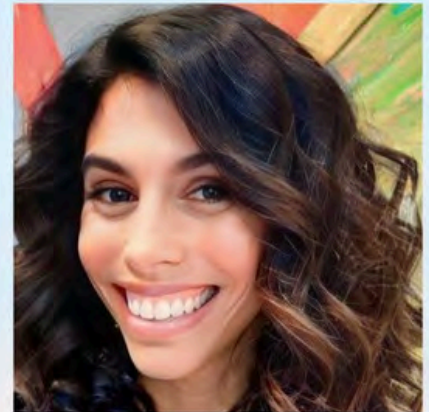
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
ABILENE

Keynote Speaker

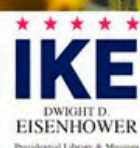
CherylAnne Amendola

2023 National Council for the Social Studies
Middle Level Educator of the Year



Register online: <https://KSSocialStudies25.eventbrite.com>

Free gift for first 50 registrants





National Economics Challenge

a CEE program

DO YOU LOVE ECON?

You may have what it takes to compete in the Nation's only high school economics competition!



The **National Economics Challenge** (NEC) is the country's only economics competition of its kind for high school students. It tests micro and macroeconomic principles as well as knowledge of the world economy.

This motivating and fun team learning experience begins with competitions at the state level. The winning team from each state moves on to the National Semi-Finals. The top teams in the semi-finals will advance and receive an **all-expense paid trip (excluding travel) to compete in the National Finals in New York City** this spring.

Why Play?

- Fun team learning experience
- Great for your college application
- No other challenge like this!

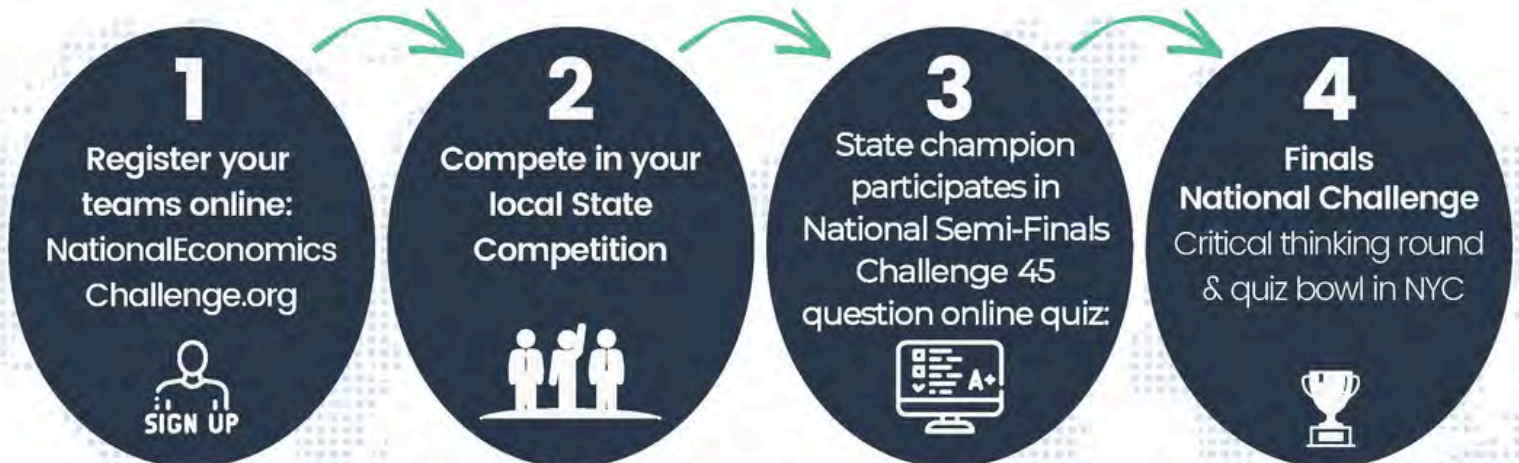
CASH PRIZES



For each team member in National Finals:

1st place:	\$1,000
2nd place:	\$500
3rd place:	\$250
4th place:	\$125

HOW IT WORKS: STEP-BY-STEP



TWO DIVISIONS BASED ON EXPERIENCE LEVEL

David Ricardo Division: For first-time competitors who have taken no more than one economics course.

Adam Smith Division: For returning competitors, AP, International Baccalaureate, and honors students.

REGISTER FOR THE KANSAS COMPETITION!
NationalEconomicsChallenge.org/Kansas

Fall Challenge dates: November 11 - December 20, 2024 | Spring Challenge dates: February 10 - March 21, 2025





National Personal Finance Challenge

a CEE program

THE NATION'S PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION



2024 Kansas Champions
Olathe North High School

The National Personal Finance Challenge is a competition that provides high school students with an exciting and motivating opportunity to build, apply, and demonstrate their knowledge of money management.

Through online exams and a personal finance simulation, teams showcase their expertise in **earning income, spending, saving, managing credit, investing, and managing risk.**

Teams of 3-4 students, with one teacher/coach, can qualify to represent their state at the National Personal Finance Challenge by winning their local competition.

HOW IT WORKS: STEP-BY-STEP



CASH PRIZES



Top teams in National Finals receive a cash prize for each student team member and an all expense paid trip to the site of the 2025 nationals

1st place: \$2,000 | 2nd place: \$1,000 | 3rd place: \$500 | 4th place: \$250

REGISTER TODAY FOR YOUR LOCAL COMPETITION!

personalfinancechallenge.org

The National Personal Finance Challenge is sponsored in Kansas by:





Life-changing

Confidence

Knowledge

Leadership

Motivation

Get to know



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

LifeSmarts is a free, national consumer literacy program that gives young people the 21st Century skills they need to become successful adults. LifeSmarts offers curricula for teachers, and exciting scholarship opportunities for students.

Why LifeSmarts?

LifeSmarts prepares the next generation of consumers and workers to take control of their lives and make more informed life decisions. In recent years, food, clothing, and entertainment purchases accounted for a majority of teen spending and an increased number of teens shopped online. Also, teens have become increasingly active in the workforce.

What makes LifeSmarts different?

Critical Thinking | Competition | Success

LifeSmarts provides teens with the skills and knowledge they need to evaluate risks and opportunities and make informed decisions for themselves and their families. LifeSmarts pushes students to use critical thinking skills, introduces them to new experiences, and allows them to forge new friendships with students from across the country. LifeSmarts also improves the quality of life of students who participate, instilling confidence and leadership skills that last a lifetime and have a positive impact on their communities.



By the numbers

125,000

Teens reached a year online and in classrooms nationwide

50 states

Where LifeSmarts is active (in the District of Columbia too!)

3.5 million

Consumer literacy questions answered each program year

It works!

Pre- and post-tests of students who participate in LifeSmarts show an increase in scores from a C average to a B+/A- average

At a glance

- An educational program
- A scholarship opportunity
- A learning resource for students
- A teaching toolbox
- A resource for current consumer topics
- A program full of opportunities with many different partners
- A program that creates life long connections and experiences for everyone involved



to learn more about the educational strategies behind the LifeSmarts content and approach, visit lifesmarts.org/about-us/

What's in it for students?

As the nation's premier consumer program and competition for 30 years, LifeSmarts teaches students about core consumer topics and develops confidence, leadership, and teamwork. Students learn to succeed individually and with their teams.

Students credit LifeSmarts with making their high school years compelling and their adulthood a success. LifeSmarts alumni boast professionals in an array of fields including: elected officials, lawyers, entrepreneurs, pharmacists, military personnel, and more.

What's in it for educators?

LifeSmarts curriculum-based foundation has evolved in recent years to complement curricula already in place in middle- and high-schools and can also be used as an activity for classes, groups, clubs, and community organizations.

LifeSmarts excels at bringing real-world skills to students, building strong literacy skills and practical knowledge about core consumer topics that include:

-  **Personal finance** (credit & debt management, financial planning, taxes, and career planning)
-  **Consumer rights and responsibilities** (fraud, contracts, and marketplace economics)
-  **Health and safety** (disease & medicine, healthcare, first aid, and nutrition)
-  **Technology & workforce prep** (social networks, privacy and career planning)
-  **The environment** (waste management, water & land, energy, and atmosphere)

Who operates LifeSmarts?

LifeSmarts is a program of the National Consumers League, the country's oldest consumer advocacy organization. National partners include FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders America), and 4-H. LifeSmarts partners with agencies and organizations to run state programs, including attorneys general, JumpStart Coalitions, Councils on Economic of Education, Better Business Bureaus, Extension Agencies, 4-H leaders, and others.

For more information about LifeSmarts, contact Cheryl Varnadoe, cherylv@nclnet.org.



From the students

LifeSmarts is the most enjoyable academic competition I have ever participated in, with the chance to meet awesome people from all across the country.

—Albert Enyedy, Massachusetts

LifeSmarts has provided me with skills that I will use in high school, college, and beyond.

—Tiffany Olson, North Dakota

Knowledge of this caliber is priceless at any age, let alone in youth. The knowledge I took away from Lifesmarts completely prepared me for the real world. This program changes the trajectory of students' lives.

—Andrew Gryskovicz, Pennsylvania



Educators say LifeSmarts:

Challenges students to show they have the skills to make it in the "real world"

Motivates students with its interactive competition format

Provides educators with new and challenging material for students

Fosters excitement in the classroom

Presents an opportunity to work with students at a rigorous level

Is flexible

Teaches the teachers as much as the students



for sample questions, visit lifesmarts.org/resources/