

National Standards Alignment

Abbreviated Course Outline

This is an abbreviated version of the course outline and national standards alignment. Full versions of both the NC EPF and national standards-alignment documents are included with the curriculum.

Lesson topics are condensed; standards are shown by code rather than full benchmark wording.

Unit 1: Intro to Economics

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
1.1 Intro to Economics and Scarcity	Scarcity, opportunity cost, needs and wants, trade-offs, incentives, and cost-benefit analysis.	CEE 1.M.1 CEE 1.H.1 CEE 2.H.1
1.2 Factors of Production	Land, labor, capital, entrepreneurship, and productive resources.	CEE 5.E.1 CEE 11.H.6 CEE 8.M.9
1.3 Economic Systems	Traditional, command, market, and mixed economies; capitalism, socialism, and communism.	CEE 1.M.3 CEE 1.M.4-1.M.5 CEE 1.H.2
1.4 Market Structures	Perfect competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, monopoly, and barriers to entry.	CEE 5.H.2 CEE 5.H.3 CEE 5.H.7
1.5 Economic Indicators	GDP, real GDP, CPI, unemployment, inflation, and recession.	CEE 11.H.1 CEE 12.H.1 CEE 15.M.3-15.M.4 CEE 16.H.6
1.6 Business Cycle	Expansion, peak, contraction, and trough; effects on consumers and businesses.	CEE 16.H.6-16.H.8 CEE 12.H.2 CEE 15.H.1
1.7 Supply & Demand: Day 1 Demand	Law of demand, elasticity, complements, substitutes, and demand shifts.	CEE 4.M.3 CEE 4.H.3 CEE 4.H.6
1.8 Supply & Demand: Day 2 Supply	Law of supply, elasticity of supply, shortages, surpluses, and producer responses.	CEE 4.M.4 CEE 4.H.4 CEE 4.H.2
1.9 B Supply & Demand: Day 3 Equilibrium Price	Equilibrium price, market-clearing price, price ceilings, price floors, and price adjustments.	CEE 4.M.5-4.M.6 CEE 4.H.1-4.H.2
1.10 Key Concepts	Production possibilities, opportunity cost, incentives, efficiency, equity, and negative externalities.	CEE 1.H.1-1.H.2 CEE 2.H.1 CEE 2.H.4 CEE 6.H.4

CEE = economics standards; PF = CEE/JumpStart personal finance standards.

Bonus: An abbreviated one-day Supply & Demand lesson is also included.

Unit 2: Government and Economics

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
2.1 Introduction to Government and the Economy	Fiscal, monetary, and regulatory policy; the Federal Reserve and public budgets.	CEE 7.H.1 CEE 17.M.1-17.M.3 CEE 18.H.1
2.2 Fiscal Policy	Taxes, spending, stimulus, deficits, surpluses, and expansionary or contractionary policy.	CEE 18.H.1 CEE 18.H.5 CEE 18.H.6
2.3 Monetary Policy	Interest rates, money supply, the Federal Reserve, and open-market operations.	CEE 17.H.1 CEE 17.H.4-17.H.6 CEE 17.H.7
2.4 Business Organization Types	Sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, nonprofits, and liability.	CEE 2.H.3 CEE 5.M.3 CEE 5.M.4
2.5 Regulatory Policy	Regulation, deregulation, antitrust policy, consumer protection, and environmental rules.	CEE 5.H.4 CEE 7.H.5 CEE 7.H.6-7.H.8
2.6 Property Rights	Private property, eminent domain, patents, copyrights, trademarks, and ownership protections.	CEE 7.H.3 CEE 6.H.3 CEE 16.H.4
2.7 Contracts	Valid contracts, breach of contract, mediation, arbitration, enforcement, and licensing.	CEE 7.H.4 CEE 3.H.1
2.8 Labor Unions	Collective bargaining, strikes, picket lines, labor laws, and worker-management negotiations.	CEE 8.H.8 CEE 7.H.4 CEE 2.H.3
2.9 Federal Budget	Revenue, taxes, mandatory and discretionary spending, deficits, and surpluses.	CEE 18.M.1-18.M.2 CEE 18.H.3-18.H.4 CEE 18.H.6 PF: Earning Income 12-6
2.10 National Debt	Federal borrowing, Treasury securities, interest payments, the debt ceiling, and economic impacts.	CEE 18.H.7 CEE 18.H.8 CEE 18.M.2
2.11 State Budgets	State taxes, revenue, appropriations, public education, and North Carolina budget priorities.	CEE 18.M.3-18.M.4 CEE 18.H.3-18.H.4 PF: Earning Income 12-6
2.12 Local Budgets	Local taxes, revenue, appropriations, schools, law enforcement, and community services.	CEE 18.M.3-18.M.4 CEE 18.H.3-18.H.4 PF: Earning Income 12-6

Unit 3: Trade and Government

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
3.1 Introduction to Trade	Imports, exports, absolute and comparative advantage, interdependence, and globalization.	CEE 9.M.2 CEE 9.H.3-9.H.4 CEE 3.M.1
3.2 Trade Agreements and Organizations	Trade blocs, the WTO, EU, ASEAN, free trade, and protectionism.	CEE 9.M.3 CEE 9.M.5 CEE 9.H.6
3.3 Free Trade vs. Fair Trade	Labor standards, certification, sustainability, supply chains, and ethical consumption.	CEE 9.M.3-9.M.4 CEE 6.H.4 PF: Spending 12-2
3.4 Barriers to Trade and Foreign Policy	Tariffs, quotas, subsidies, embargoes, sanctions, retaliation, and domestic industries.	CEE 9.M.5-9.M.6 CEE 9.H.2 CEE 7.M.2
3.5 U.S. Role in the Global Economy	The U.S. dollar, trade balance, trading partners, supply chains, and foreign direct investment.	CEE 9.H.1 CEE 9.H.6-9.H.8 CEE 10.H.5

Unit 4: Intro to Personal Finance

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
4.1 Intro Financial Planning	Income, budgeting, fixed and variable costs, cost of living, and financial trade-offs.	PF: Spending 12-1 PF: Spending 12-2 CEE 2.H.2
4.2 Types of Income	Wages, salaries, investment income, and simplified tax returns using W-2 information.	PF: Earning Income 12-1 PF: Earning Income 12-8 PF: Earning Income 12-7
4.3 Payroll Deductions	Gross and net income, deductions, FICA, pay stubs, and take-home pay.	PF: Earning Income 12-6 PF: Earning Income 12-7 PF: Earning Income 8-5
4.4 Career Considerations	Education, skills, lifestyles, employee benefits, gig work, and career choices.	PF: Earning Income 12-1 & 12-2 PF: Earning Income 12-4 & 12-5 PF: Earning Income 12-11
4.5 Postsecondary Options	Tuition, degrees, certifications, income potential, job qualifications, and career preparation.	PF: Earning Income 12-3 PF: Earning Income 12-4 PF: Earning Income 12-5
4.6 Paying for College & Student Loans	FAFSA, scholarships, grants, work-study, student loans, and education-cost trade-offs.	PF: Earning Income 12-3 PF: Managing Credit 12-4 PF: Managing Credit 12-5
4.7 Buying a Car Factors to Consider and Loan Options	Budgets, ongoing costs, insurance, seller options, resale value, and financing.	PF: Spending 12-3 PF: Managing Credit 12-1 & 12-6 PF: Managing Risk 12-3 & 12-4
4.8 Mortgages	Mortgage types, down payments, PMI, and long-term borrowing costs.	PF: Managing Credit 12-3 PF: Managing Credit 12-6 PF: Spending 12-6 PF: Managing Risk 12-3
4.9 Intro to Insurance	Premiums, deductibles, coverage, beneficiaries, claims, and major insurance types.	PF: Managing Risk 12-1 & 12-2 PF: Managing Risk 12-7 PF: Managing Risk 12-8
4.10 Health Insurance, Universal Health Insurance & The Affordable Care Act, Explained Coming Fall 2026	Premiums, deductibles, copays, coinsurance, out-of-pocket maximums, and plan comparisons.	PF: Managing Risk 12-5 PF: Earning Income 12-1 PF: Managing Risk 12-9

Unit 5: Credit and Financial Planning

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
5.1 Intro to Credit and Debt	Credit scores, credit reports, secured and unsecured credit, and responsible borrowing.	PF: Managing Credit 12-2 PF: Managing Credit 12-7 & 12-8 PF: Managing Credit 12-10
5.2 Loans and Interest Rates	Loan types, principal, APR, loan terms, collateral, fees, and total borrowing costs.	PF: Managing Credit 12-1 PF: Managing Credit 12-2 CEE 14.M.2 & 14.H.8
5.3 Credit Cards	APR, minimum payments, billing cycles, fees, credit utilization, and payment comparisons.	PF: Managing Credit 12-1 PF: Spending 8-4 CEE 13.H.1
5.4 Banks vs. Credit Unions	Accounts, interest, fees, deposit insurance, online banking, and financial services.	PF: Saving 12-1 & 12-2 PF: Saving 12-5 PF: Saving 8-6 CEE 14.M.1
5.5 Investing and the Stock Market	Stocks, bonds, funds, risk, return, diversification, compound growth, and tax implications.	PF: Investing 12-2 & 12-3 PF: Investing 12-6 PF: Investing 12-8 PF: Investing 12-13

Unit 5: Credit and Financial Planning (continued)

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
5.6 Cryptocurrency	Blockchain, digital wallets, volatility, speculation, security, fraud, and investment risk.	CEE 13.H.4 PF: Investing 12-2 PF: Saving 12-3 PF: Investing 12-12
5.7 Predatory Lending	Payday and title loans, hidden fees, deceptive terms, debt cycles, and consumer protections.	PF: Managing Credit 12-13 PF: Managing Credit 12-1 PF: Managing Credit 12-12
5.8 Retirement & Social Security	Social Security, pensions, retirement accounts, employer matching, and tax implications.	PF: Earning Income 12-10 PF: Saving 12-6 & 12-7 PF: Investing 12-6 PF: Investing 12-8
5.9 Philanthropy	Nonprofits, volunteerism, social entrepreneurship, charity evaluation, and community development.	PF: Spending 12-7 PF: Spending 12-1 CEE 2.H.7 CEE 5.M.4
5.10 Estate Planning	Wills, trusts, executors, beneficiaries, powers of attorney, guardianship, and inheritance.	CEE 7.H.3 PF: Managing Risk 12-8 PF: Spending 12-9*

Unit 6: Behavioral Economics and Critical Consumerism

LESSON	CONTENT AT A GLANCE	NATIONAL STANDARDS CODES
6.1 Intro to Behavioral Economics	Cognitive biases, heuristics, scarcity mindset, impulse buying, framing, and loss aversion.	CEE 2.H.1 CEE 2.H.9-2.H.10 PF: Investing 12-9 PF: Saving 12-9
6.2 Advertising	Emotional appeals, targeted ads, product placement, brand loyalty, and deceptive claims.	PF: Spending 12-4 PF: Spending 12-5 PF: Spending 12-8 CEE 2.H.10
6.3 Social Media and Influencers	Influencer marketing, algorithms, parasocial relationships, social proof, and credibility.	CEE 10.H.4 PF: Spending 12-5 PF: Saving 12-9
6.4 Smart Consumerism	Comparison shopping, unit pricing, warranties, return policies, reviews, and total cost.	PF: Spending 12-2 & 12-3 PF: Spending 12-5 PF: Spending 12-8 PF: Managing Risk 12-12
6.5 Scams and Fraud	Identity theft, phishing, spoofing, common scams, warning signs, reporting, and protection.	PF: Spending 12-8 PF: Managing Risk 12-11 PF: Managing Credit 12-7
6.6 Investment Fraud: Pyramid, Ponzi, and Cryptocurrency Schemes	Pyramid and Ponzi schemes, cryptocurrency scams, pump-and-dump schemes, and warning signs.	PF: Investing 12-12 PF: Investing 12-2 PF: Spending 12-8 PF: Managing Risk 12-11
6.7 Conscious Consumerism	Fair trade, sustainability, labor practices, animal rights, boycotts, and corporate social responsibility.	PF: Spending 12-2 & 12-3 CEE 6.H.4 CEE 5.M.4 CEE 10.H.2

* Lesson 5.10: The 2021 personal-finance standards do not include a stand-alone estate-planning benchmark; the listed codes are supporting alignments.

Source frameworks: Council for Economic Education, National Content Standards in K-12 Economics, 3rd Edition (2025); CEE/JumpStart National Standards for Personal Financial Education (2021). Independent curriculum crosswalk; no endorsement by the standards publishers is implied.