

 HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING BLOCKS ASSESSMENT

Youth financial capability survey scoring worksheet

This worksheet helps high school students, or their instructors, score the “Youth financial capability survey.” Knowing your scores can help you measure your current financial capability and plan for future growth.

Instructions

1. Locate your answers for each question and record the response value in the right-hand column.
2. Add the values associated with your answers to get subtotal for each section (1a, 1b, etc.).
3. Add the subtotals to get a total for each section of survey (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3).
4. Add your total scores for each building block to calculate your financial capability score.



Part 1: Executive function

Select your answers for each question. Record the response value in the right-hand column. Calculate the values and record them in the subtotal field. Then add the subtotals to calculate your total score for the executive function building block.

1A. Critical thinking and problem-solving

This statement describes me	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Response value
1. When I have a problem to solve, I try to gather as much information as possible.	4	3	2	1	0	
2. I try to think of many different approaches when I'm solving a problem.	4	3	2	1	0	
3. When I make a decision, I usually go with my “gut feeling”, and I don't think too much about the consequences.	0	1	2	3	4	

1A Subtotal _____

1B. Future orientation

This statement describes me	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Response value
4. Living for the moment is less important to me than planning for a good future.	4	3	2	1	0	
5. I spend a lot of time thinking about how what I do today will affect me in the future.	4	3	2	1	0	
6. I'd rather save money for an important purchase than spend it now on something unimportant.	4	3	2	1	0	
1B Subtotal						

1C. Planning ahead and delaying gratification

This statement describes me	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Response value
7. I will give up what I want today to get what I want in the future.	4	3	2	1	0	
8. I finish my homework on or before the due date.	4	3	2	1	0	
9. I try to save money in case of an emergency.	4	3	2	1	0	
10. It's hard for me to resist buying things I can't afford.	0	1	2	3	4	
1C Subtotal:						

Total for executive function (Add 1A, 1B, and 1C): _____



Part 2: Financial habits and norms

Locate your answers for each question. Record the response value in the right-hand column. Calculate the values and record them in the subtotal field. Then add the subtotals to calculate your total score for the financial habits and norms building block.

2A. Attitudes toward money

This statement describes me	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Response value
11. When my parents buy me things, I try to "pay them back" by helping them out.	4	3	2	1	0	
12. I feel personal responsibility when spending my parents' money.	4	3	2	1	0	
13. I don't care if other people have more money than I do.	4	3	2	1	0	
14. I think it's important to save money for things I want to buy or have.	4	3	2	1	0	
15. I think it's important to save money for my education and my future.	4	3	2	1	0	
16. Buying things makes me happy.	0	1	2	3	4	
2A Subtotal:						

2B. Positive money management

This statement describes me	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Not at all	Response value
17. I am able to save money.	4	3	2	1	0	
18. If I don't have enough money to buy something I really want with cash, I try to buy it anyway.	0	1	2	3	4	

This statement describes me	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Not at all	Response value
19. When I shop, I compare brands and other options.	4	3	2	1	0	
20. I keep track of how much money I spend.	4	3	2	1	0	
21. I ask myself if something is a need or a want before buying it.	4	3	2	1	0	
						2B Subtotal: _____

2C. Spending and saving decisions

This statement describes me	Always	Often	Somewhat	Rarely	Not at all	Response value
22. I say no to spending money on things I think are wrong or unnecessary.	4	3	2	1	0	
23. If I really want something, I work hard to get it.	4	3	2	1	0	
24. I spend money on things that aren't important to me because my friends are doing it.	0	1	2	3	4	
						2C Subtotal: _____

2D. Financial confidence

This statement describes me	Always	Often	Somewhat	Rarely	Not at all	Response value
25. I'm confident in my ability to achieve a financial goal I set.	4	3	2	1	0	
26. When I'm in trouble or have a challenge to deal with, I can usually find a solution.	4	3	2	1	0	
27. I consider myself a "smart spender."	4	3	2	1	0	

This statement describes me	Always	Often	Somewhat	Rarely	Not at all	Response value
28. I can save money for things I really want.	4	3	2	1	0	
29. I'm good at making money decisions and managing money.	4	3	2	1	0	
						2D Subtotal: _____
						Total for financial habits and norms (Add 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D): _____



Part 3: Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

Locate your answers for each question. Record the response value in the right-hand column. Calculate the values and record them in the subtotal field. Then add the subtotals to calculate your total score for the financial knowledge and decision-making skills section.

3A. Advanced financial concepts

						Response value
30. How would you compare yourself to your close friends regarding your overall knowledge of financial topics?		4	I know much more than my friends.	3	I know a little more than my friends.	
		2	I know the same amount as my friends.	1	My friends know a little more than I do.	
		0	My friends know much more than I do.			
I think this statement is	Always True	Often True	Somewhat True	Rarely True	Never True	Response value
31. My credit rating will not be affected by how much I charge on my credit cards.	0	1	2	3	4	
32. A good rule to live by is to have an emergency fund that covers two to six months of my expenses.	4	3	2	1	0	
33. With compound interest, I'll earn interest on my principal and my interest.	4	3	2	1	0	

I think this statement is	Always True	Often True	Somewhat True	Rarely True	Never True	Response value
34. As a result of compound interest, the earlier I start saving for retirement, the more money I'll have.	4	3	2	1	0	
35. If I use my home as collateral for a loan, there is no chance of losing my home.	0	1	2	3	4	
36. If the interest rate goes up on an adjustable-rate mortgage, my monthly mortgage payments will go up.	4	3	2	1	0	
						3A Subtotal: _____

3B. Identify trusted sources of information




This statement describes me	Always	Often	Somewhat	Rarely	Not at all	Response value
37. For information I find on the Internet, knowing the author can help me judge if it is a reliable source.	4	3	2	1	0	
38. Before I trust information I find in my research, it's important to make sure it's factual and objective.	4	3	2	1	0	
39. Knowing the intended purpose of published information (for example, is it selling something?) can help me judge its reliability.	4	3	2	1	0	
40. Product research and comparison shopping can help me make informed buying decisions.	4	3	2	1	0	
						3B Subtotal: _____

Total for financial knowledge and decision-making skills (Add 3A and 3B): _____

Youth financial capability scoring worksheet:

Scoring your financial capability

STEP 1: Enter the total number you calculated for each section of the survey. These sections relate to the three building blocks of financial capability. Then, add these three scores to get an “overall total.”

Section	Record your score
 Part 1. Executive function	
 Part 2. Financial habits and norms	
 Part 3. Financial knowledge and decision-making skills	
TOTAL	

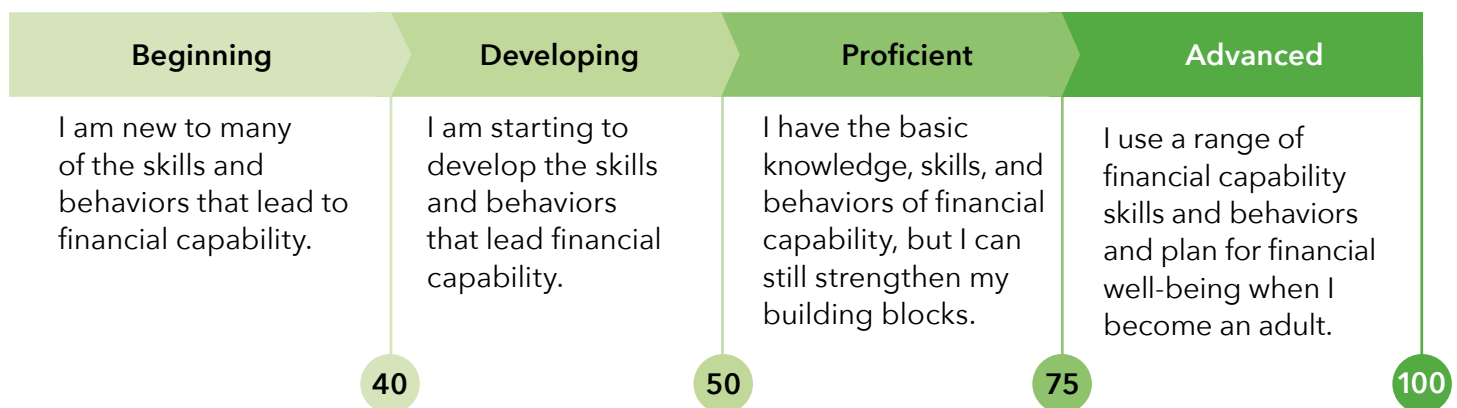
STEP 2: Multiply your overall total by .625. This is your financial capability score.

Overall total _____ X .625 = Financial capability score _____

What do my scores mean?

Financial capability is the ability to manage financial resources effectively, understand and apply financial knowledge, demonstrate healthy money habits, and successfully complete financial tasks as planned.

A CFPB financial capability score is a number between 0 and 100 that represents your current financial knowledge and skills. Find where your score falls on the overall financial capability scale.






Knowing where you are can help you plan for where you want to be. Your financial capability score gives you a picture of your level now, so you can track your progress toward a strong financial future. Remember, financial capability is more of a journey than a destination. We can always improve. By strengthening your skills and behaviors, you'll be on the path to financial security and freedom of choice.

Understanding your financial capability

Financial capability is made up of three building blocks: executive function, financial habits and norms, and financial knowledge and decision making. It can be helpful to look more closely at your scores in each of the building blocks, so you better understand your strengths and areas for growth.

Look back at your building block scores and select the range your scores fall into.

Building Block	Area for growth: I need to grow in this area in order to build my financial capability.	On track: I'm off to a good start, but I still have a lot to learn.	Area for strength: I have a lot of these attitudes, skills, and habits, but there's always room to grow.
 1: Executive function The thinking skills and abilities needed to plan ahead, focus attention, remember information, practice self-control, and juggle multiple tasks.	0-19	20-29	30-40
 2: Financial habits and norms The values, standards, routine practices, and rules to live by used to navigate day-to-day financial life.	0-37	38-56	57-70
 3: Financial knowledge and decision-making skills The knowledge and skills needed to understand the financial world and make informed financial decisions.	0-22	23-32	33-44

Three things you can do to improve your financial capability:

1. Talk with your teacher about what your scores tell you about your strengths and areas for growth. Your teacher can help you set goals and find activities to further develop knowledge, skills, and behaviors related to specific building blocks.
2. Learn more about the specific skills and behaviors you can develop in each of the building blocks of financial capability by looking at "[The milestones of financial capability rubric.](#)"
3. Check out the "[Financial Capability & Literacy](#)" page on the [youth.gov](#) website.