



National Personal Finance Challenge Teacher Handbook

Congratulations to you and your students for advancing to the National Personal Finance Challenge (NPFC) Semi-Finals.

As your state's champion, your students will compete in a qualifying round of online multiple-choice questions. Students will each take the test individually and the top 24 scoring teams will advance to compete in the Finals, on **Thursday June 3, 2021**. Differing from the multiple-choice test, in the case study round each team will be given a detailed, fictional family scenario and will have two hours to prepare a plan for that family. They will present their plan to a panel of judges who will score teams on content, knowledge, teamwork, and presentation skills. The top four teams will advance to the final round and again present their plan to our expert judges for cash prizes, a team banner, and the title of the 2021 National Personal Finance team champion!

COACH/TEACHER OF THE STATE CHAMPION TEAM WILL:

Register the team (coach/teacher and students):

- Confirm your team's attendance to the NPFC with your State Coordinator as soon as possible following your state's finals or no later than **or within 48 hours of the completion of your state's competition**.
- Provide your State Coordinator with your team's information (student names and email addresses).
- Discuss preferred Semi-Finals testing date with your State Coordinator. Your State Coordinator will relay that testing date to the National Economics Challenge staff.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Dress
 - Business for finals round competition; teams will present via Zoom.
- Social media:
 - Use the hashtag #financechallenge to document your experience on social media. Feel free to tag the Council for Economic Education (@CouncilEconEd), the Nebraska Council on Economic Education (@NEEconEd), and Voya (@Voya) on Twitter.
- Contacts:
 - Caleb Larson clarson@councilforeconed.org or 678-314-8403
 - Russell Morgan rmorgan@unl.edu 308-765-0667
 - Rosanna Castillo rcastillo@councilforeconed.org or 212.827.3633

COMPETITION AGENDA & STRUCTURE:

May 6 – May 26

- Students log into the [Finance Challenge website](https://financechallenge.unl.edu/SemiFinals/Welcome) and take the qualifying exams [here](https://financechallenge.unl.edu/SemiFinals/Welcome) (<https://financechallenge.unl.edu/SemiFinals/Welcome>).

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- All teams must complete their test on the date agreed upon between your team and your state's State Coordinator .
- Students must take the exams individually and simultaneously.
- Teachers and/or parents will proctor students as they take the Personal Finance Challenge qualifying exam.
- Exam is 45 questions and each student will have 45 minutes to complete the exam.
- Scoring is +10 for a correct answer and zero for an incorrect answer.
- Team score will be comprised of the sum the top three highest individual student scores (dropping the lowest of a team of four).
- Top 24 scoring teams will advance to the June 3 case study competition.

May 18

- Deadline for states to declare their state champions.
- Deadline for State Coordinator to submit their state champion school, teacher, and student information to CEE.

May 28

- Teams will be notified if they are advancing to Finals via email.
- Advancement emails will contain Zoom links and scheduled start times.

June 3

- The top 24 teams that have advanced to the case study round will log on and begin their preparation.
 - Teams will arrive 30 minutes prior to their start time to ensure no technical issues and view pre-recorded welcome messages and instructions.
- Each team will have two (2) hours to work together to come up with a financial plan based on a detailed fictitious family scenario. Each team will create a PowerPoint presentation and present to a panel of expert judges. Presentations are limited to fifteen (15) minutes and an additional five (5) minutes to respond to questions.
 - Teams will be provided with the same fictitious family scenario (case study).
 - Team members must work together in their online Zoom room only.
 - Each team and Zoom room will be monitored by a proctor.
 - Students are responsible for their own stable Wi-Fi access.
 - Teams are welcome to use any presentation software they have access to - PowerPoint, Google slides, etc.
- The first set of four teams to compete will begin at 9:30AM EDT.
- Sets of four teams will then begin competing in 30-minute intervals.
- Once their two hours are up, teams will immediately be moved to judge's rooms to present.
- Initial presentations will begin at 11:30PM.
- Teams will be randomly selected to present in one (1) of four (4) Zoom breakout rooms. Each Zoom breakout room will have a minimum of three expert judges.

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- Teams will have 15 minutes to present and 5 minutes to respond to questions.
- Each Zoom breakout room will have a timer present. Teams will be notified at the 10-minute mark and 14-minute mark and stopped when the 15 minutes is concluded. Judges will then have 5 minutes to ask any remaining questions they may have.
- Judges will then confer from 3:00 – 3:30PM to determine which teams will advance to the final presentations. The decision of the judges is final.
- The top four teams will be announced at 3:30PM and advance to present to our expert judges.
- Final presentations will last from 3:30-4:40PM.
 - Teams will be on standby together in one room as they wait to present.
 - Presentation order will be random.
 - The top four teams will make their same presentation to an elite panel of expert judges. The same time limits will be utilized from the previous round, a maximum of 15 minutes to present and an additional 5 minutes for questions. Judges will determine overall place in the national competition.
- At 4:50 judges will announce the winners of this year's National Personal Finance Challenge. The decision of the judges is final.

TEAM STRUCTURE:

- Team composition:
 - Teams shall be comprised of three or four members.
 - All members must be from the same high school or home-based school.
 - The state championship team may reconstitute the members of its team prior to National Semi-Finals. At least one original team member must participate in the national competition. Students must however, meet the general student eligibility conditions.
 - Teams **cannot** reconstitute between National Semi-Finals and Finals.
- Student eligibility
 - Students must be currently enrolled in a high school or home-based school from the state they are representing.
 - Each team must be sponsored by a teacher from its school. For home-based high school teams, one parent is to serve as the sponsor/teacher.
 - Students may participate each year that they are attending high school.

PRIZES:

- First place: Banner and \$2000 for each team member.
- Second place: Banner and \$1000 for each team member.
- Third place: Banner and \$500 for each team member.
- Fourth place: Banner and \$250 for each team member.

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All teams that advance to National Finals will receive a 2021 limited edition National Personal Finance Challenge T-shirt. Shirts will be sent to team coaches to distribute to their students.

COMPETITION INTEGRITY:

It is our desire to ensure that fair competition exists at all levels. If a student or proctor/teacher is caught cheating the team will be disqualified. The following are strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification and immediate removal from the competition.

- Communication between the students, teachers, and proctors during the case study preparation time/two (2) hour work time. Including using technology like smart watch/smart phone/chat feature to “phone a friend.”
- Any discussion of the case study or presentation during breaks.
- Accessing any previously saved data, research, or other files on a personal laptop or online, including Dropbox or Google Drives, for use on the case study or presentation.
- Use of cell phones/smart watches during the two-hour case study work time.
- In this virtual environment, even the appearance of impropriety will lead to disqualification.

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS:

Visit the below CEE Teacher Toolkit for numerous lessons and ideas to prepare your students for the competition.

[National Personal Finance Challenge Teacher Toolkit \(https://www.econedlink.org/national-personal-finance-challenge/\)](https://www.econedlink.org/national-personal-finance-challenge/)

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Or

Your State Coordinators: (<https://financechallenge.unl.edu/>)