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**K-12 Professional Development Opportunities**

**Certifications for VCEE Certified Economics Educator**

Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE) and its affiliated university-based Centers for Economic Education provide Institutes and workshops for teachers to assist them in teaching economics and personal finance, K-12. Programs focus on both content knowledge and engaging strategies for presenting the content to their students--all at ***no charge*** to teachers.

Institutes are designed to cover a content area fully and provide teachers with classroom-ready lessons and activities. They can be scheduled as a unit or over a period of time. Teachers earn recognition as a *VCEE Certified Economics Educator* if they attend the entire institute and pass the post-test. Institutes include:

**Economics Institute** (42 hours - online, in-person, or hybrid)

This program focuses on economics content in the high school Economics & Personal Finance SOL and provides resources for teaching the standards. Participants learn how the “economic way of thinking” turns basic economics concepts into life skills that enable students to make more meaningful and productive day-to-day decisions. A detailed analysis of how market economies work and the personal and societal implications of economic indicators (inflation, unemployment, and economic growth) also contribute to students becoming more informed decision-makers as consumers, producers, savers, investors, employees, and citizens. A broader analysis of economies as a whole allows participants to make better sense of world situations.  **Also available: AP Economics Institute** (30 hours in-person)

**Personal Finance Institute** (40 hours in-person)

Includes detailed content instruction and methodology for the personal finance topics included in the high school Economics & Personal Finance SOL and competencies including banking, credit, consumer rights and responsibilities, insurance, taxes, and financial planning. Content instruction is delivered by professionals working in the various fields. Teachers take the W!SE Financial Literacy test and have the opportunity to earn this Teacher Certification at no charge.

**Civics and Economics Institute** (30 hours – 24 in-person and 4 out-of-class)

Designed to assist middle school CE teachers with all the economic content in the SOL for this course as well as provide creative lessons and resources. Modules include: (1) Economics is About Making Choices; (2) Why Do We Need an Economic System?; (3) How Our Economy Flows; (4) Markets and Prices; (5) How Does Government Relate to the Economy?; (6) What is Globalization and How Does It Affect Me?; (7) Banks and the Federal Reserve System; and (8) How the Economy Affects Me Financially.

**Mini-Economy Institute** (18 hours in-person)

Project-based learning at its best! Tap into the endless creativity of young students using a classroom-proven template that makes setting up your classroom economy simple. The Mini-Economy is an experienced-based program used to teach entrepreneurship, economics, and government. Students immerse themselves in a classroom economy: applying for jobs, running businesses, paying taxes, and making investments. Students master essential economics principles while getting cross-curricular exposure to math, reading, and writing.  On top of invaluable teamwork and negotiation skills, students learn and practice their role in the global marketplace.

This program identifies easy-to-use activities which directly assess 3rd grade SOL while building toward a project goal: the creation of a flourishing classroom business. Although the Mini-Economy Portfolio Assessment is focused on grade 3, this program can be a fun and effective learning tool in grades 4 and 5 and middle school.

**K-5 Economics and Personal Finance Online** (20 hours with option for 3 more)

This six week online course is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of all of the K-5 economic and personal finance concepts in Virginia’s Standards of Learning while also giving you things to think about in terms of your own personal finances.  It includes five modules designed to take 2.5 to 4.0 hours a week: Orientation; Making Good Decisions; Producing and Earning; Savings; and Investing.  A sixth module (Using Credit) is optional, but can be undertaken for an additional 3 hours. The course includes pedagogy and teaching demonstrations from experienced elementary teachers (grade bands K-2 and 3-5 separated) and identification of grade-level appropriate resources.

**K-3 Institute** (12 hours in-person)

This Institute allows teachers to experience methods of teaching all of the K-3 elementary economics related SOL in a manner that is hands-on, effective, and enjoyable for students and teachers alike. Designed to strengthen and deepen a teacher’s understanding of these fundamental economic concepts, the Institute also provides a variety of resources ready for use in the classroom, including lessons, simulations, and demonstrations linked to children's literature, both classic and new.

Workshops of shorter duration are also available and can be found at [**vcee.org**](http://www.vcee.org).

Contact **Sarah Finley** (shfinley@vcu.edu) or the Center near you
 to schedule an Institute or workshop.

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*Institutes are provided at no cost to teachers or school divisions with the generous support of the following through the* [*Fund for Teaching Excellence in Economics and Personal Finance*](http://vcee.org/teacher-workshops/)*:*

**BB&T ∙ SunTrust Foundation**

**Virginia Bankers Association Education Foundation ∙ Wells Fargo**

**Allianz Foundation for North America**

**Genworth Foundation ∙ State Farm**

**Bank of America ∙ Capital One ∙ Dominion Foundation**

**Virginia Credit Union ∙ Virginia Lottery**

**Scott & Stringfellow Educational Foundation**

 **Towne Bank ∙ Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants March 2016**