

Teacher guide

The building blocks “Map your money journey – Elementary school” survey measures young people’s (grades 3–5) development of three interconnected building blocks of financial capability.

The building blocks are:

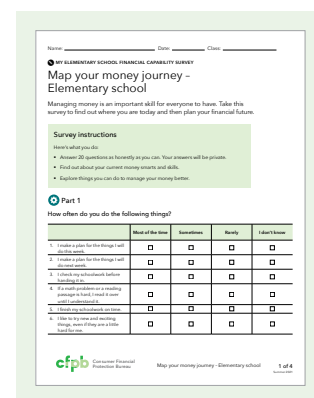
- Executive function, called “Planning and self-control” in the survey
- Financial habits and norms, called “Money habits and values” in the survey
- Financial knowledge and decision-making skills, called “Money knowledge and choices” in the survey

Administering the “Map your money journey – Elementary school” survey

The “Map your money journey – Elementary school” survey is a 20-question self-assessment designed for students in grades 3–5 that is available as a four-page fillable PDF document. It is divided into three sections, each of which focuses on one of the three building blocks and includes statements corresponding to the key habits, attitudes, knowledge, skills, and abilities that make up that building block.

Giving the survey to students:

- You can print the survey for students or have them complete it electronically.
- Before beginning, let students know that the survey questions won’t involve any math problems. The questions are about students’ money-related knowledge, skills, and habits.
- Let students know that they should answer as honestly and accurately as possible. Their responses will be kept confidential.
- Explain that students should answer the questions based on how they would respond given the statements and scenarios.
- It may be helpful to read the first one or two statements aloud and help students consider how to respond.
- Students will likely complete the survey in 10–15 minutes.
 - To take a more active approach (which may better support struggling readers or English language learners), you may read each question aloud and give students time to respond.



Getting survey results

The survey includes the “Your money journey results worksheet – Elementary school,” which young people, or their instructors, can use to determine their results from the “Map your money journey – Elementary school” survey.

You may choose to calculate results for all the surveys yourself or have students calculate their own results and give them to you. Having students determine their own results will save you time and may also help build their awareness and engagement in the process. However, if you use this method, it’s important to emphasize that students shouldn’t judge themselves or try to change their answers in the process.

In the “Your money journey results worksheet – Elementary school,” each survey statement is measured by recording the corresponding value of the response a student gave in the “response value” column of the worksheet. The values are added together to get the result for each building block.

Pages 3 and 4 of the worksheet are designed to help students and their teachers calculate and interpret the students’ overall financial capability results and their results for each of the three building blocks. They enter the result for each building block and then total the amounts to get their overall financial capability result. Once that result is calculated, students can see where they are on their money journey.

The screenshot shows the title page of the worksheet. It includes the title 'ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FINANCIAL CAPABILITY SURVEY Your money journey results worksheet - Elementary school'. Below the title, there are instructions for students and teachers. A table is provided for recording responses, with columns for 'Statement', 'Response value', and 'Total of all responses'. The table has five rows for statements related to budgeting, saving, and spending. The 'Total of all responses' column is currently empty.

Statement	Response value	Total of all responses
1. I make a plan for the things I will do.	5 4 3 2	
2. I make a plan for the things I will do.	5 4 3 2	
3. I think my choices matter.	5 4 3 2	
4. If a math problem or a reading passage is hard, I read more and ask for help.	5 4 3 2	
5. I have my own and working things.	5 4 3 2	

Analyzing survey results

The overall financial capability result, which ranges from 40% to 100%, represents a student’s current financial knowledge and skills. To better understand their overall financial capability result, students can analyze their areas for growth as well as their areas of strength. To facilitate this process, pages 4 and 5 of the results worksheet make it easy to see where their results for each building block fall along three levels:

- **Starting out** – This means the student is beginning to learn the important money skills and behaviors they’ll need to manage their money now and in the future.
 - Students with this result scored between 40% and 60% out of 100%.
- **On the road** – This indicates that the student has some important money habits and skills, but can still learn more. Most students’ results will fall in this category.
 - Students with this result scored between 61%-80% out of 100%, depending on the section.

- **Well on your way** – This means the student has most of the skills and behaviors being evaluated in this survey.
 - Students with this result scored between 81%-100% out of 100%, depending on the section.

Analyzing students’ results can help capture their emerging financial capability at a specific moment in time. In addition, if the survey is given at different administration periods (e.g., for a pre- and post-assessment), it can show students’ progress over time. You can use the results to:

- Assess a young person’s, or a class’s, current financial capability.
- Track changes in a young person’s financial capability over time.
- Measure the extent to which educational or other programs are improving the financial capabilities of the youth you serve.

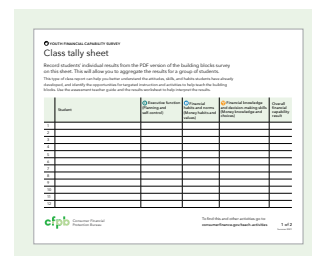
Class tally sheet

You can use the “[Class tally sheet](#)” to collect and review the results for a group of students. This can help you better recognize the attitudes, skills, and habits the group of students has already developed. It can also guide your selection of activities that can strengthen the building blocks.

Using survey data to build students’ financial capability

After the results are calculated, you’ll have important data about your students’ current strengths and areas for growth in each building block of financial capability. You can use this information to help students reflect on what they might do to improve their financial capability.

- You can use CFPB’s classroom activities to teach and nurture the building blocks of financial capability – no matter what subject you teach.
 - Go to CFPB’s searchable activity database (www.consumerfinance.gov/teach-activities) to search for learning activities that target your students’ areas for growth. Filter by topic, grade level, and activity duration to find the activities that are most relevant for your class and your learners.
 - All activities can be completed within a single class period. Each activity comes with a teacher guide and student materials, so it’s easy to implement.
 - You can have students complete the “[Taking the next steps on your money journey](#)” worksheet to help them think about their strengths and set goals to get the money future they want.



Other building blocks assessments

You can also assess students' development of the building blocks using an additional classroom assessment tool.

Developmental milestones chart

This chart can help you measure your students' achievement of financial capability according to established criteria for the building blocks. The performance levels give a clear picture of how financial capability develops over time.

Elementary school checklist

This checklist will help you collect individual and class data by observing students' demonstration of milestones related to each of the three building blocks. It's aligned with the CFPB youth financial education activities.

Explore more resources

CFPB's youth financial education resources can be found at www.consumerfinance.gov/youth-financial-education.

