

2025-2026 Competitive Events Guidelines

Personal Finance



Personal Finance challenges members to demonstrate their understanding of essential financial skills through an objective test. This event covers topics such as budgeting, saving, credit, investing, and responsible financial decision-making, helping members build a foundation for lifelong financial wellness.

Event Overview

Division	High School
Event Type	Individual
Event Category	Objective Test
Event Elements	50-minute test, 100-multiple choice questions

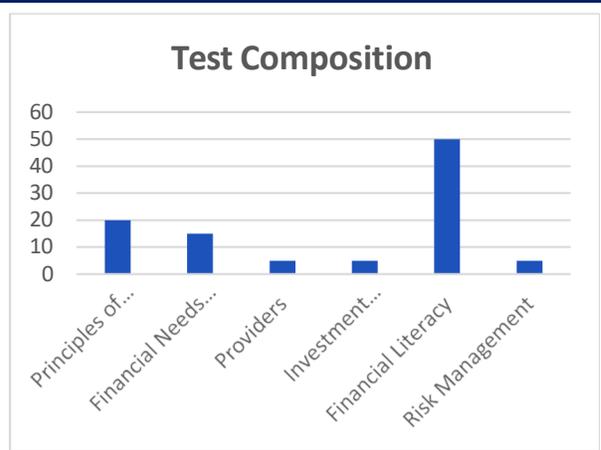
Educational Alignments

Career Cluster Framework Connection	Financial Services
NACE Competency Alignment	Career & Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Technology

Knowledge Areas

- Principles of Money
- Financial Needs and Goals
- Financial-Services Providers
- Investment Strategies
- Financial Literacy
- Risk Management

Test questions are based on the knowledge areas and objectives outlined for this event. Detailed objectives can be found in the study guide included in these guidelines.



District

Vermont FBLA does not host district conferences.

State

Testing will take place prior to the State Leadership Conference. Testing must occur at school under the supervision of an adult proctor. Check the Call to Conference for the specific instructions and deadlines. See below for a list of required competition items; Vermont FBLA requires the same items set by National FBLA at our State Leadership Conference. Vermont FBLA will also provide the items listed below, except for the objective test.

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National

Required Competition Items

Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides On-site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharpened pencil Fully powered device for online testing Conference-provided nametag Photo identification Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One piece of scratch paper per competitor Internet access Test login information (link & password provided at test check-in)

Important FBLA Documents

- Competitors should be familiar with the Competitive Events [Policy & Procedures Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:

- Membership Deadline:** FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- Repeat Competitors:** Members may only compete in an event at the NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at future NLCs, unless the event has been modified beyond a name change. Chapter events are exempt from this procedure.
- Conference Registration:** Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- Official Hotel Requirement:** To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- State Entry Limits:** Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- Event Participation Limits:** Each member may participate in:
 - One individual or team event, and
 - One chapter event (e.g., *Community Service Project* or *Local Chapter Annual Business Report*).
- Participation Requirement:** To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- Identification at Check-in:** Competitors must present valid photo identification (physical or digital) that matches the name on their conference name badge. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, passport, state-issued ID, or school ID.
- Late Arrivals:** Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.
- Event Schedule Notes:**
 - Some events may begin before the Opening Session.

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- All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city.
- Schedule changes are not permitted.

Event Administration

- **Test Duration:** 50 minutes
- **Format:** This event consists of an online objective test that is proctored and completed on-site at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- **Materials:** Reference or study materials are not permitted at the testing site.
- **Calculators:** Personal calculators are not allowed; an online calculator will be available within the testing platform.
- **Question Review:** Competitors may flag questions within the testing platform for review prior to the finalization of results at the NLC.

Scoring

- Each correct answer is worth one point.
- No points are deducted for incorrect answers.
- Tiebreakers are determined as follows: (1) The number of correct responses to 10 pre-selected tiebreaker questions will be compared. (2) If a tie remains, the number of correct responses to 20 pre-selected questions will be reviewed. (3) If a tie still remains, the competitor who completed the test in the shortest amount of time will be ranked higher.
- Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to the testing site.

Recognition

- A maximum of 10 entries (individuals or teams) may be recognized per event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and appropriate support.

Electronic Devices

- Unless approved as part of a documented accommodation, all cell phones, smartwatches, electronic devices, and headphones must be turned off and stored away before the competition begins. Visible devices during the event will be considered a violation of the FBLA Honor Code.

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Sample Preparation Resources

- Official sample test items can be found in [FBLA Connect](#). These sample items showcase the types of questions that may be asked on the test and familiarize competitors with the multiple-choice item options.

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Study Guide: Knowledge Areas and Objectives

This study guide shows the skills and knowledge you'll be tested on for this event. Objectives followed by a two-letter, three-digit code in parentheses are based on the National Business Administration Standards from MBA Research and Curriculum Center. Some objectives also reference MBA Research's Learning Activity Packages (LAPs)—resources with readings, activities, and assessments to help you learn. For more information, visit MBAResearch.org/FBLA.

Principles of Money (20 test items)

1. Explain forms of financial exchange (cash, credit, debit, electronic funds transfer, etc.) (FI:058) (PQ)
2. Identify types of currency (paper money, coins, banknotes, government bonds, treasury notes, etc.) (FI:059) (PQ)
3. Describe functions of money (medium of exchange, unit of measure, store of value) (FI:060) (PQ)
4. Describe sources of income and compensation (FI:061) (CS)
5. Explain the time value of money (FI:062) (CS)
6. Explain the purposes and importance of credit (FI:002, LAP-FI-002) (CS)
7. Explain legal responsibilities associated with consumer financial products and services (FI:063) (CS)

Financial Needs and Goals (15 test items)

1. Explain the need to save and invest (FI:270) (CS)
2. Set financial goals (FI:065) (CS)
3. Develop personal budget (FI:066) (CS)
4. Determine personal net worth (FI:562) (CS)
5. Describe the nature of budgets (FI:106, LAP-FI-106) (SP)

Financial-Services Providers (5 test items)

1. Describe types of financial-services providers (FI:075) (CS)
2. Discuss considerations in selecting a financial-services provider (FI:076) (CS)

Investment Strategies (5 test items)

1. Explain types of investments (FI:077, LAP-FI-077) (CS)
2. Explain factors to consider when selecting investments (FI:279) (SP)

Financial Literacy (50 test items)

1. Explain the nature of tax liabilities (FI:067) (PQ)
2. Interpret a pay stub (FI:068) (PQ)
3. Write checks (FI:560) (PQ)
4. Maintain financial records (FI:069) (PQ)
5. Balance a bank account (FI:070) (PQ)
6. Explain the nature of charitable giving (FI:567) (PQ)
7. Manage online accounts (FI:830) (CS)
8. Calculate the cost of credit (FI:782) (CS)
9. Demonstrate the wise use of credit (FI:071) (CS)

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10. Validate credit history (FI:072) (CS)
11. Make responsible financial decisions (FI:783) (CS)
12. Protect against identity theft (FI:073) (CS)
13. Pay bills (FI:565) (CS)
14. Apply for a consumer loan (FI:625) (SP)
15. Control debt (FI:568) (CS)
16. Prepare personal income tax forms (FI:074) (CS)
17. Discuss options for financing a college education (FI:831) (CS)
18. Discuss the nature of retirement planning (FI:569) (CS)
19. Explain the nature of estate planning (FI:572) (CS)

Risk Management (5 test items)

1. Describe the concept of insurance (FI:081) (CS)
2. Determine insurance needs (FI:571) (SP)

References for Knowledge Areas & Objectives

MBA Research and Curriculum Center. *National Business Administration Standards*.

<https://www.mbaresearch.org/local-educators/teaching-resources/standards/>

Investopedia. *Personal finance*. <https://www.investopedia.com/personal-finance-4427760>

Practical Money Skills. <https://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/en/learn.html>

The Balance. *Understanding investing risk*. <https://www.thebalancemoney.com/understanding-risk-3141268>