



Financial Flight School: Launching Your High Schooler to Financial Independence

High school is a critical launchpad. Your teens are on the cusp of adulthood, making increasingly important decisions that will shape their financial future. This isn't just about allowances anymore; it's about credit, investments, and long-term planning. This guide provides a structured approach to elevate their financial IQ, preparing them for the real world.

Real-World Financial Simulations

- **"Adulthood" Challenges:**
 - **The Concept:** Simulating real-life financial scenarios.
 - **Action Plan:** Create scenarios involving rent payments, utility bills, car insurance, groceries, and other common expenses. Have your teen research prices and create a budget to cover these expenses. Discuss the importance of prioritizing needs over wants and making informed financial decisions.
- **College Financial Planning:**
 - **The Concept:** Understanding the cost of college and financing options.
 - **Action Plan:** Research college tuition costs and explore different financial aid options, such as scholarships, grants, and student loans. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form together. Discuss the pros and cons of different loan options and create a repayment plan.
- **Tax Time Training:**
 - **The Concept:** Understanding basic tax concepts and filing requirements.
 - **Action Plan:** Explain the basics of income tax, deductions, and credits. Help your teen file their taxes (if they have earned income) using tax preparation software or a professional tax preparer.



Investing – Building Wealth for the Future

- **Investment Account Introduction:**

- **The Concept:** Early investing and the power of compounding.
- **Action Plan:** Open a custodial brokerage account (e.g., Schwab, Fidelity, Vanguard) and involve your teen in the investment selection process. Start small, focusing on low-cost index funds or ETFs that track the overall market. Explain the concept of diversification and asset allocation.

- **Stock Market Simulation:**

- **The Concept:** Hands-on investing experience without real risk.
- **Action Plan:** Participate in a stock market simulation game (e.g., The Stock Market Game, Investopedia Stock Simulator). This allows your teen to test different investment strategies, learn about market volatility, and develop their investment skills in a safe environment.

- **Retirement Planning 101:**

- **The Concept:** The importance of saving for retirement early, even in small amounts.
- **Action Plan:** Explain the concept of compound interest and how it can significantly boost retirement savings over time. Discuss different retirement account options, such as Roth IRAs and 401(k)s (if they have earned income). Use online calculators to project potential retirement savings based on different contribution rates and investment returns.

Set your child up for financial success by opening an account at Aeroquip Credit Union! We offer a range of services tailored to young members, starting with a \$20 deposit to kickstart their savings journey. Aeroquip Credit Union provides ongoing support for your child's financial education, from access to expert financial advice to yearly scholarship opportunities that can ease the burden of higher education costs. As they mature, we offer student Visa credit cards designed to help them build credit responsibly, ensuring they're well-prepared for a bright financial future.

Word Search

Y N Z B S M Q S A V I N G Z V
P A P T W P H X W G V C Q S N
X X P F E J E E Q D A R N C M
P X Q P T I O N W E J E Z H W
M B J F L Z U U D B J D I O A
K F U K A I T F Q I H I N L W
A N Q W R L C N L T N T C A E
B Y E X Q T W A Q O B G O R L
S O P G R K I L T M M S M S K
M X A R A H H J N I U P E H G
U A Q W K T O T L O O D B I Y
S H M O U J I R S V P N E P V
L J N U V F F V L X Y I F I V
W Q H Y U Y P X E T I H Z I Q
F E Q B F P L Z W C V F T P F

Scholarship

Application

Negative

Spending

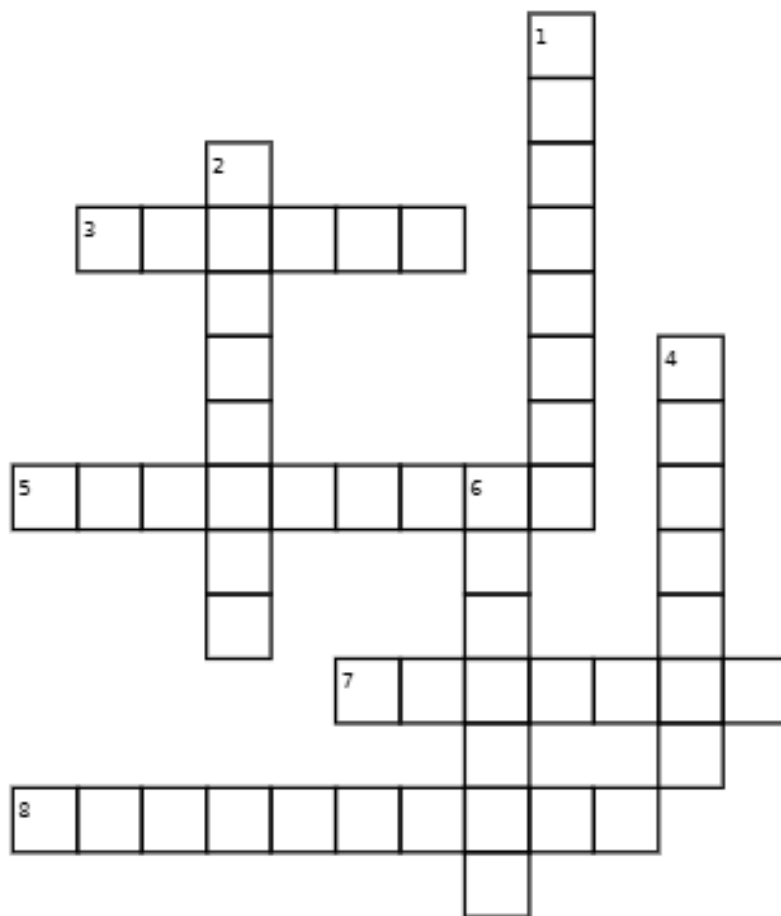
Credit

Saving

Income

Debit

Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. Loan
2. Equity
4. Deficit
6. Taxes

Across:

3. Index
5. Retirement
7. Inflation
8. Collateral