Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Learning Exchange

STEM Learning Exchanges have been formed for selected career clusters to improve the coordination and delivery of resources, work-based learning opportunities, career guidance, and partnerships that support local STEM programs.


The finance sector in Illinois is comprised of a set of institutions, instruments, and the regulatory framework that permits transactions to be made by extending credit and incurring and settling debts. Broadly understood, the financial sector encompasses banks, insurance companies, real estate agencies, and organizations that manage securities, commodities and other investments.

Career Pathways

- Accounting
- Banking & Financial Services
- Economics
- Finance
- Insurance & Risk Management
- Property & Real Estate Management
- Securities & Investments

Why consider a finance-related pathway of study?

- In banking and related services, office and administrative support workers constitute 64 percent of all jobs. Employment is projected to grow at about the state average thru 2018.
- As the population ages, sales will increase for health and long-term care insurance as well as annuities and other pension products.
- In securities and investments, employment growth is expected due to increasing investment and a growing need for investment consulting.

The Finance Learning Exchange will provide curricular and other resources to support the selection of careers in finance and the preparation of high school students as they transition to post-secondary institutions and careers. Key functions we are working to support or facilitate include:

- e-learning curriculum resources
- access to classroom and lab space, equipment, and related educational resources
- student organizations & activities
- internships, adult mentoring & work-based learning opportunities
- student challenges & project management resources
- professional development resources for educators and school administrators integrated and aligned across middle school and high school, and community college instruction
- STEM career development and outreach resources
- tools and resources to assist schools with customized education plans and transitions to post-secondary programs
- review and assessment of programs; work with schools to continuously improve performance

Visit: econed-il.org
The STEM Finance Learning Exchange

Finance-related Career Clusters & examples of jobs available:

**Accounting** - Auditors, Bank Examiners, Tax Professionals, Banking Officers, Disbursement Directors at Educational Institutions and large businesses, Actuaries

**Banking & Financial Services** - Loan/Mortgage Officers, Trust Officers, Bank Examiners, Banking Officers, Financial Services of many levels at most businesses

**Economics** - Federal Reserve System, Banking, Politics, Teaching, Banking Officers, Government Positions, Management

**Finance** - Investment Services for Municipalities and Businesses, Investment and Retirement Planning, Government Positions - Federal Reserve System, Politics

**Insurance & Risk Management** - Actuaries, Sales Professionals, Financial Services of many levels

**Property & Real Estate Management** - Securities & Investment Professionals, City Officials, Accountants, Financial Services

**Securities & Investment** - Stock Brokers, Security Exchange Commission and other regulatory Organizations, Actuaries, Finance Professionals, Data Analysts, Financial Services

Engagement opportunities currently available for schools:
- Teacher, Administrator and Guidance Counselor presentations
- Student presentations
- Student field trips to industry sites
- Finance industry speakers in the classroom
- Curriculum resources and customized professional development
- Financial literacy resources

Finance-related resources are available and continue to be expanded while new resources and opportunities are being developed for all stakeholders (students, teachers, school administrators, parents, and industry professionals).

Illinois Pathways: [www.ilpathways.com](http://www.ilpathways.com)
Illinois Open Educational Resources: [ioer.ilsharedlearning.org/Library/214/Finance_Learning_Exchange_Library](http://ioer.ilsharedlearning.org/Library/214/Finance_Learning_Exchange_Library)
Econ Illinois: [www.econed-il.org](http://www.econed-il.org)
Illinois workNet: [www2.illinoisworknet.com](http://www2.illinoisworknet.com)
P-20 Council: [www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20](http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20)
Illinois Jump$tart: [www.illinoisjumpstart.org](http://www.illinoisjumpstart.org)
College and Career Readiness: [www.jsbe.net/career](http://www.jsbe.net/career)
60 x 2025: [www.isac.org/home/isac-big-goal.html](http://www.isac.org/home/isac-big-goal.html)
Illinois Community College Board: [www.iccb.org](http://www.iccb.org)
Education for Employment (EFE) Regional Delivery Systems: [www.isbe.net/career/](http://www.isbe.net/career/)
Des Plaines Valley Regional EFE System: [www.dvr-efe.info](http://www.dvr-efe.info)

Why **Econ Illinois** serves as the lead entity to coordinate the Finance Learning Exchange

Econ Illinois is the premier provider of economic education programs for K-12 schools throughout the state with over 65 years of experience in providing teacher professional development in basic economics, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship education. Econ Illinois' programs, delivered through university-based Centers for Economic Education, help schools integrate the teaching of economics across all grade levels, developing a comprehensive and sequential curriculum for economics and personal finance.

In partnership with leaders from business, labor, agriculture, education, and government, Econ Illinois is dedicated to increasing economic literacy and critical thinking skills in Illinois. An affiliate of the National Council for Economic Education, Econ Illinois is the oldest continuously active state council in the national network impacting nearly 180,000 students each year.

Finance STEM Learning Exchange Lead Organization: **Econ Illinois**, Northern Illinois University
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