

Resource Doc for Keynote on 4/11/26:

PDF Slide Deck: [In This Economy? Engaged & Empowered Money Minds with Kyla Scanlon](#)

[Video Recording Link Here](#)

Links & Resources Shared

Resource	Details & Link
30-Day \$100 Savings Challenge	A printable savings challenge for students. Amounts can be completed in any order over 30 days www.moneytalkbmo.com/_files/ugd/c6e257_385e2112ebbd4cc899e2990957f87026.pdf
Housing Zoning Book Excerpt (Arbitrary Lines)	Resource on the housing zoning problem and its impact on affordability. www.usgbc.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/ArbitraryLines_Excerpt.pdf
NGPF (Next Gen Personal Finance)	Free curriculum, activities, games (including Shady Sam), and videos for teaching personal finance. Multiple attendees recommended NGPF videos and movement-based activities. → ngpf.org
Federal Reserve Teacher PD	The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (and other regional branches) offers excellent PD for K–8 financial literacy education. Shared by Candace Kinard. → philadelphiafed.org
Twinkl.com	Visual and age-appropriate materials for younger or lower-level learners → twinkl.com
Marketplace Podcast	Daily podcast for staying current on economics. Recommended as a classroom resource. → marketplace.org

Key Themes & Takeaways

Teaching Personal Finance + Economics Together

- Economics and personal finance are deeply intertwined—students need both. Several attendees advocated for combining or sequencing the courses rather than choosing one over the other.
- Start personal finance earlier (before high school) to make room for economics later.
- Sneak economics into personal finance lessons through real-world examples and current events (e.g., headlines, the Marketplace podcast).
- Distinguish the economy from the stock market – great companies can have poorly performing stocks, and vice versa.

Addressing Student Anxiety & Cynicism

- “Control the controllables” – A key framework from the session. Help students focus on what they can influence rather than feeling overwhelmed by the broader economy.
- Two things can be true at the same time: systemic challenges are real AND individual financial decisions still matter.
- Meet students where they are emotionally. Financial topics can feel like a personal attack for students from struggling families.
- Be honest and authentic – students detect inauthenticity quickly. Share your own money story and acknowledge the real challenges.
- Celebrate small wins to build momentum and confidence.

Engaging All Learners

- Gamify lessons – Shady Sam and other NGPF games were crowd favorites. Games help remove the personal sting from financial topics.
- Use visuals, short videos, and hands-on activities rather than lecture and reading-heavy lessons, especially for students with lower literacy levels or in special education settings.
- Make it relatable: use prices of items students actually want to buy, and examples from your local area.
- For younger students (K–8), start with foundational concepts like supply and demand, saving, and earning. Check out Junior Achievement.

Housing & Affordability Discussion Highlights

- First-time homebuyer programs: Several states and cities (Rhode Island, Detroit, DC, and others) offer down-payment assistance. Research your local programs early.
- Creative strategies shared by attendees: house hacking (buying a multi-unit and renting part), purchasing with family or friends, buying in lower-cost areas, and considering inter-generational living.
- Inter-generational living is the norm in many Latin American, Black, and Native American families – a valid and increasingly practical model.