



Get a Life!

GAME SHOW

SCHOOL RESOURCE PACKET



A PROGRAM OF THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Letter from the West Virginia State Treasurer

Dear West Virginia Educator,

Thank you for your interest in our office's financial education programs. We are excited to introduce you to our newest learning experience called **Get a Life Game Show**. This hands-on activity brings financial literacy to life and encourages high school students to think critically about the money choices and challenges they will face as adults. It builds on the success of our office's **Get a Life** budgeting program for middle school students, which has helped students with financial learning for almost 20 years.

This fun, educational event is a standalone activity designed to supplement classroom learning with a grade-level school assembly professionally led by State Treasury staff. **Get a Life Game Show** offers a unique way to supplement and support the classroom lesson plans your high school will already offer as a result of the adoption of Personal Finance Standards which require high school students to complete a half-credit personal finance course before graduation, starting with the Class of 2028. This requirement is the result of HB 3113 passed by the State Legislature in 2023 and amended with SB 283 in 2025 which allows for the course to be completed anytime between grades 8-12.



Thanks to the new graduation requirement and other financial education initiatives, West Virginia is projected to rise from a "Grade B" to "Grade A" by 2028 according to the National Report Card on Financial Literacy which is published by Champlain College's Center for Financial Literacy (CFL) and the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE).

My office is proud to do our part to support West Virginia's teachers and students in their financial education journey with our supplemental resources. Collaboration is key as we continue to explore unique and innovative ways to lead our youth to prosperity. With your support, we will expand access to meaningful, real-life financial learning opportunities.

If you have questions about any of our office programs, please contact our Financial Education Division at financial@wvsto.gov or call **304-558-5000** and ask to speak to one of our financial education specialists. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Larry Pack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Larry Pack
West Virginia State Treasurer



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
TREASURER'S OFFICE

About the Program

What We Do

For almost two decades, the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office has empowered West Virginia middle school students with personal financial education through its one-of-a-kind **Get a Life** budget simulation.

Building on the success of our signature program, the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office launched **Get a Life Game Show**, a fun, fast-paced learning experience specifically designed to develop financial decision-making skills among high school students and young adults.

Get a Life Game Show supplements classroom learning as an assembly-style activity professionally led by experienced State Treasury staff. The program targets 10th grade students, but the concepts may be suitable for older teens and young adults. Each school event lasts about an hour and can be completed in an auditorium or gymnasium accommodating groups of various sizes.

During **Get a Life Game Show**, students are divided into four teams and compete in three rounds of game-show style play. Each team is represented by a character who has made a common financial mistake such as falling for a scam, spending beyond their means, or failing to obtain a meaningful job. Students representatives work together to answer personal finance questions and complete physical challenges while being assisted by their teammates to earn **Get a Life Game Show** cash.

Drawing inspiration from Stanford University's Initiative for Financial Decision-Making and similar research, students tackle questions related to personal finance concepts that include compound interest, inflation, and risk diversification. Case studies show that individuals who gain an early understanding of these three concepts are shown to manage debt more effectively, save more for retirement, and make wiser investment decisions.

Program Highlights

- Introduces fundamental, real-world financial concepts and terminology
- Builds critical thinking and financial decision-making skills
- Helps students distinguish between needs and wants when making spending decisions
- Encourages teamwork, communication, and problem-solving
- Reinforces delayed gratification, responsible spending habits, and the importance of saving for future goals
- Demonstrates the long-term financial consequences of everyday decisions using realistic life scenarios



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Tips for a Successful Event

Know Who's Who!

- **Get a Life Presenter (Game Show Host)** – A representative from the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office who guides the activity. The **Get a Life Game Show** Presenter will arrive 45 minutes before the event to ensure timely set-up.
- **Host Coordinator** – A representative from the host school who works with the **Get a Life Game Show** Presenter to plan for the event.
- **Assistant Treasurer** – A representative from the host school who keeps track of the money that each team earns during **Get a Life Game Show**. This may be a school staff member, adult volunteer, or a responsible student.

Schedule the Event

As early as possible, reach out to the West Virginia State Treasurer's Financial Education Division to schedule your school's event. Email financialled@wvsto.gov or call **304-558-5000** and ask to speak to someone in the Financial Education Division. A **Get a Life Game Show** Presenter will work directly with the Host Coordinator to schedule a date, time, and event location. They will also discuss the appropriate number of students and grade level for your event.

Facility Arrangements

For the event facilities, the Host Coordinator must:

- Reserve the location such as an auditorium or gym
- Arrange for an "audience" seating area, such as bleachers or chairs where students can sit
- A working laptop and projector system set up by school before the event start time
- A minimum of two faculty/staff members to assist the Get a Life Presenter for the duration of the event

Recruiting Participants

The Host Coordinator will work to ensure principals, teachers, and students are familiar with **Get a Life Game Show** and are able to adjust the school schedule to allow students to attend the event for a minimum of one hour.

Survey

A brief survey will be provided to participants at the end of the event. Students should bring a device with them so the survey can be completed. A staff member who observed the Game Show will also be asked to complete a brief survey.

Social Media

The Host Coordinator's school may share social media posts leading up to the event to build anticipation and soon after the event (within a couple of days) while excitement is still high. A student or teacher quote can make the post more personal and relatable. Please be sure to credit **Get a Life Game Show** as a program of the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office. You may also tag WVTreasury on Facebook, Instagram and X pages.



The Host School will provide



Pulldown screen to project questions



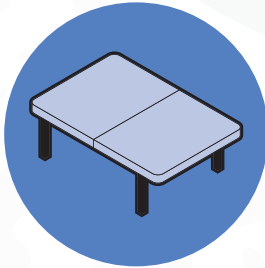
Projector



Microphone



Basketball and hoop for physical challenge (if taking place in gym)



Assistant Treasurer Table

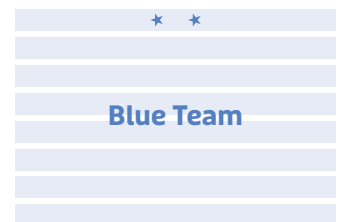
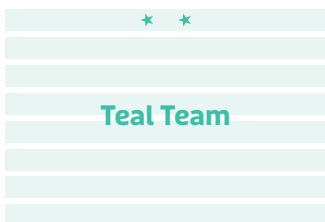
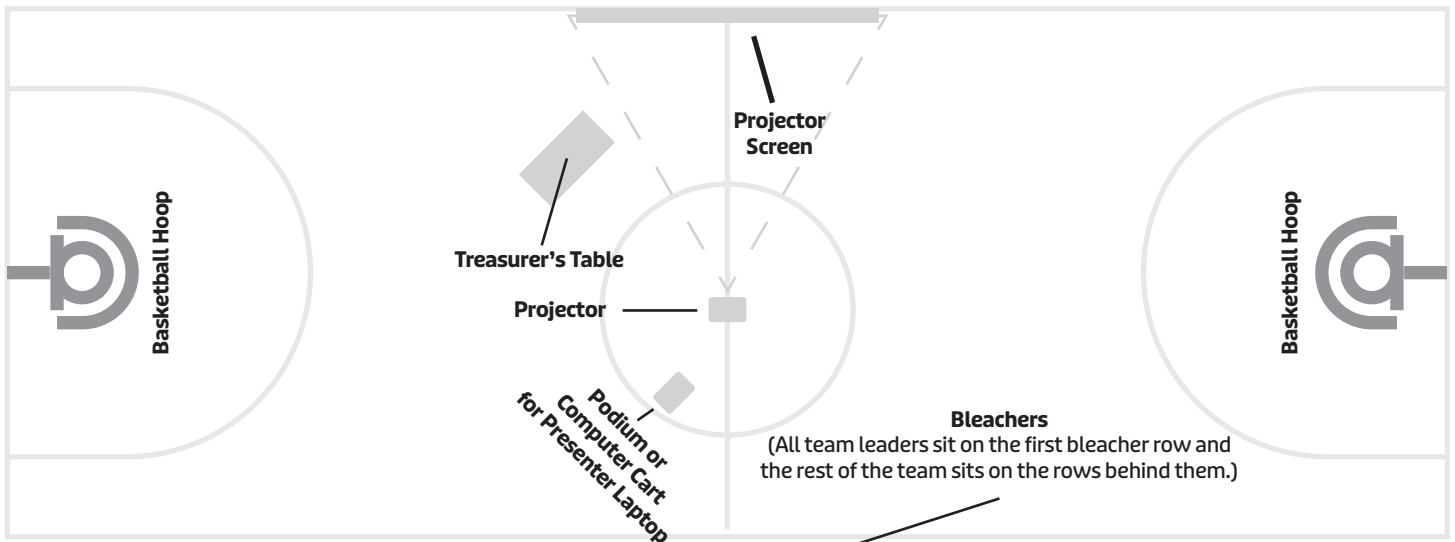


Seating for all students



At least two staff members for supervision

Game Setup



Object of the Game

The participating students will be seated in bleachers or chairs and assembled into four teams. Each team will be represented by two students who will stand on the gym floor and answer three rounds of financial literacy questions while earning money for each correct answer. Team reps will have three lifelines available to ask other team members for help to find the correct answer. At the end of three rounds, the team that has earned the most money and climbed out of debt will be the winner.

Getting Started

Students will receive one of four colored character cards provided by the presenter as they enter the room and will sit together as a team. The game will take no more than one hour to complete. A student or staff member will serve as the Assistant Treasurer and will stand on the floor and keep score for the teams. The Assistant Treasurer will distribute **Get a Life Game Show** cash to the team reps at the end of each round for correct answers.

How to Play

Two student reps will stand on the floor answering questions for their team. There will be four teams. There are three rounds of questions with harder questions each round. Teams will be asked three questions in a row before moving to the next team. There will be a physical challenge completed by team members after the first and second rounds of questions.

Round 1

Students will answer three questions worth \$100 per correct answer.

Round 1 Physical Challenge

Teams will have three attempts to earn \$100 for their team earning up to \$300. The specific challenge is dependent on the area where the activity is being held.

Round 2

Students will answer three questions worth \$1,000 per correct answer.

Round 2 Physical Challenge

Teams will have three attempts to earn \$1,000 for their team earning up to \$3,000. All three teams can complete this challenge at the same time on the gym floor while their team cheers them on. The specific challenge is dependent on the area where the activity is being held.

Round 3

Students will answer three questions worth \$5,000 per correct answer.

Lifelines

The team reps will have opportunities to ask for help by using one of three tokens*:



Holler Home

Call on a member of your team for assistance.



Ask the Expert

Ask a staff member in the room for help answering the question.



Wrong Be Gone

Eliminate one wrong answer.

*Lifelines can only be used once per team per game.



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Determining the Winner

At the end of Round Three, students will complete a post-game survey while the Assistant Treasurer calculates their score based on the Scorecard. Teams must first pay off their character’s \$10,000 debt to the Assistant Treasurer if possible and then add up what money they have leftover. The team with the most money earned will be declared the winner.



SCORECARD



Round	Question	Blue Team	Green Team	Orange Team	Teal Team
1 (\$100)	1				
	2				
	3				
	Physical Challenge				
2 (\$1,000)	1				
	2				
	3				
	Physical Challenge				
3 (\$5,000)	1				
	2				
	3				
Grand Totals					

Winner _____

Celebrating Your Success

Congratulations to your school on participating in Get a Life Game Show! The winning team may have their photo taken and shared on social media.

Follow WV Treasury on Facebook, Instagram and X to see pictures from your school.



Contact Us



wvtreasury.gov/Citizens/Financial-Education



financial@wvsto.gov



304-558-5000

Special support for **Get a Life** is provided by the **SMART529[®]** education savings program and the **West Virginia State Treasurer's Office**.

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