



Alignment Document  
State of Illinois and Aventa Learning Economics

**Economics**  
2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

| State Goals  | Learning Standards  | Benchmarks   | Unit Name  | Course Topic Description  |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 15 Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the United States. | 15.A Understand how different economic systems operate in the exchange, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. | 15.A.4a Explain how national economies vary in the extent that government and private markets help allocate goods, services and resources. | Economic Systems   | Free Market Economy   |
|  |   |  | Economic Systems   | Traditional Economies   |
|  |   |  | Economic Systems   | Centrally Planned or Command Economy                              |
|  |   |  | Economic Systems   | Mixed or Modernized Economy                                       |
|  |   |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Principles of the American Free Enterprise System                 |
|  |   |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | The U.S. Government's Role in the American Free Enterprise System |
|  |   | The United States and Globalization  | Economic Development                                     |   |
|  |   | 15.A.4b Describe Gross Domestic Product (GDP).   | Measuring Economic Performance                           | Gross Domestic Product  |

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|  |   | <b>15.A.4c</b> Analyze the impact of inflation on an individual and the economy as a whole.   | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement<br><br>Measuring Economic Performance   | Fiscal Policies and the Economy<br><br>The Effects of Inflation  |
|  |   | <b>15.A.4d</b> Explain the effects of unemployment on the economy.  | Measuring Economic Performance   | The Effects of the Unemployment Rate   |
|  | <b>15.B</b> Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by consumers. | <b>15.B.4a</b> Explain the costs and benefits of making consumer purchases through differing means (e.g., credit, cash).  | Business, Banking, and Finance   | Money and Banking  |
|  |   | <b>15.B.4b</b> Analyze the impact of current events (e.g., weather/natural disasters, wars) on consumer prices.   | Research Project<br><br>Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand<br><br>Measuring Economic Performance                                 | Stock Market Simulation<br><br>Black Markets and Rationing<br><br>Factors that Influence Business Cycles |
|  | <b>15.C</b> Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by producers. | <b>15.C.4a</b> Analyze the impact of political actions and natural phenomena (e.g., wars, legislation, natural disaster) on producers and production decisions. | Research Project<br><br>American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement<br><br>American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Stock Market Simulation<br><br>Business Cycles<br><br>Fiscal Policies and the Economy                    |

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|  |   |  | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand       | Black Markets and Rationing                |
|  |   |  | Measuring Economic Performance                           | Factors that Influence Business Cycles     |
|  |   | <b>15.C.4b</b> Explain the importance of research, development, invention, technology and entrepreneurship to the United States economy.                         | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity     | Entrepreneurs                              |
|  |   |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Business Cycles                            |
|  |   |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Entrepreneurs of the Past and Present      |
|  | <b>15.D</b> Understand trade as an exchange of goods or services. | <b>15.D.4a</b> Explain the meaning and importance of "balance of trade" and how trade surpluses and deficits between nations are determined.                     |  |  |
|  |   | <b>15.D.4b</b> Describe the relationships between the availability and price of a nation's resources and its comparative advantage in relation to other nations. | Economic Systems   | The Location of Resources Around the Globe |
|  |   |  | Economic Systems   | The Location of Global Oil Reserves        |
|  |   |  | The United States and Globalization                      | Comparative and Absolute Advantage         |
|  |   | <b>15.D.4c</b> Describe the impact of worker productivity (output per worker) on business, the worker and the consumer.  |  |  |



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|  | <b>15.E</b> Understand the impact of government policies and decisions on production and consumption in the economy. | <b>15.E.4a</b> Explain why government may intervene in a market economy. | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity     | Dealing With Scarcity: Government Rules                           |
|  |  |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Principles of the American Free Enterprise System                 |
|  |  |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | The U.S. Government's Role in the American Free Enterprise System |
|  |  |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | The U.S. Government's Income and Expenditures                     |
|  |  |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | U.S. Fiscal Policy  |
|  |  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement                 | U.S. Monetary Policy                                     |   |
|  | <b>15.E.4b</b> Describe social and environmental benefits and consequences of production and consumption.            |  |  |   |
|  | <b>15.E.4c</b> Analyze the relationship between a country's science/technology policies                              | The United States and Globalization                                      | International Trade                                      |   |

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|   |  | and its level and balance of trade.  |  |   |
| <b>15</b> Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the United States. | <b>15.A</b> Understand how different economic systems operate in the exchange, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. | <b>15.A.5a</b> Explain the impact of various determinants of economic growth (e.g., investments in human/physical capital, research and development, technological change) on the economy. | The United States and Globalization                      | Economic Development                            |
|   |  | <b>15.A.5b</b> Analyze the impact of economic growth.  | Measuring Economic Performance                           | Gross Domestic Product                          |
|   |  |  | Measuring Economic Performance                           | Using Inflation to Measure Economic Performance |
|   |  | <b>15.A.5c</b> Analyze the impact of various determinants on the levels of GDP (e.g., quantity/quality of natural/capital resources, size/skills of the labor force).                      | The United States and Globalization                      | Economic Development                            |
|   | <b>15.A.5d</b> Explain the comparative value of the Consumer Price Index (e.g., goods and services in one year with earlier or later periods). | Measuring Economic Performance   | The Consumer Price Index                                 |   |
|   | <b>15.B</b> Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by consumers.  | <b>15.B.5a</b> Analyze the impact of changes in non-price determinants (e.g., changes in consumer income, changes in tastes and preferences) on consumer demand.                           | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand       | Factors that Influence Elasticity               |
|   |  | <b>15.B.5b</b> Analyze how inflation and interest rates affect consumer purchasing power.  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | U.S. Monetary Policy                            |
|   |  |  | Measuring Economic Performance                           | Inflation                                       |
|   | <b>15.B.5c</b> Analyze elasticity as it applies to supply and demand and consumer decisions.   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Inelasticity and Elasticity                              |   |

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|  |   |  | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Elasticity of Supply                     |
| <b>15.C</b> Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by producers.  | <b>15.C.5a</b> Explain how competition is maintained in the United States economy and how the level of competition varies in differing market structures (e.g., monopoly, oligopoly, monopolistic and perfect competition). | Economic Systems                                     | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Self-Regulation of a Free Market Economy |
|  |   | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Monopolies                               |
|  |   | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Real-Life Examples of Monopolies         |
|  |   | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Business, Banking, and Finance                       | Oligopolies                              |
| <b>15.C.5b</b> Explain how changes in non-price determinants of supply (e.g., number of producers) affect producer decisions.  |   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Shifts in Quantity Supplied              |
|  |   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Elasticity of Supply                     |
| <b>15.C.5c</b> Explain how government intervention with market prices can cause shortages or surpluses of a good or service (e.g., minimum wage policies, rent freezes, farm subsidies). |   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Shifts in the Supply Curve               |
|  |   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand   | Government Involvement in Pricing        |
| <b>15.D</b> Understand trade as an exchange of goods or services.  | <b>15.D.5a</b> Explain how transaction costs affect decisions to produce or consume.  | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity | Thinking Like an Economist               |
|  |   | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity | Scarcity and the Factors of Production   |



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|  |  |   | <p>Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity</p> <p>Economic Systems</p> <p>Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand</p> <p>Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand</p> <p>Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand</p> <p>Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand</p> | <p>Opportunity Costs</p> <p>Self-Regulation of a Free Market Economy</p> <p>Understanding the Law of Demand</p> <p>Analyzing Demand Graphs</p> <p>Understanding the Law of Supply</p> <p>Analyzing Supply Graphs</p> |
|  |  | <p><b>15.D.5b</b> Analyze why trade barriers and exchange rates affect the flow of goods and services among nations.</p>                  | <p>The United States and Globalization</p> <p>The United States and Globalization</p> <p>The United States and Globalization</p>  | <p>Trade Barriers</p> <p>Free Trade</p> <p>Exchange Rates</p>  |
|  |  | <p><b>15.D.5c</b> Explain how technology has affected trade in the areas of transportation, communication, finance and manufacturing.</p> | <p>The United States and Globalization</p> <p>The United States and Globalization</p>   | <p>International Trade</p> <p>Economic Development</p>   |

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|  | <b>15.E</b> Understand the impact of government policies and decisions on production and consumption in the economy. | <b>15.E.5a</b> Explain how and why government redistributes income in the economy.  | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Redistribution Programs            |
|  |  | <b>15.E.5b</b> Describe how fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies affect overall levels of employment, output and consumption.                     | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | U.S. Fiscal Policy                 |
|  |  |   | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | U.S. Monetary Policy               |
|  |  | <b>15.E.5c</b> Describe key schools of thought (e.g., classical, Keynesian, monetarist, supply-side) and explain their impact on government policies. | Understanding the Market Through Supply and Demand       | Government Involvement in Pricing  |
|  |  |   | Foundations of Economics and the Problem of Scarcity     | Historical Background of Economics |
|  |  |   | American Free Enterprise and U.S. Government Involvement | Influential Economic Philosophers  |