

## Games that teach kids to manage \$

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Fingers were at the ready in Montpelier Friday at the game show-themed Vermont Reserve Cup championship. But this isn't "The Price is Right," it's a glimpse of the real world game of personal finance and consumer affairs.

"It's a lot of fun," said Kyle Boomhower, who attends Mt. Mansfield Union High School. "It's kind of nerve-racking being up there and everyone is staring at you, but once you get into it, it's a lot of fun."

Students from across the state came to compete for the chance to represent Vermont in the New England Championship later this year, and say they also hope to include Friday's topics in their future endeavors.

"I am currently enrolled in personal finance education, and I always wanted it to be a part of my career and this is just one more day I get to spend pursuing it," said Christy Milne, who attends Harwood Union High School.

Experts say today's uncertain financial climate is even more reason to teach kids about money.

With lawmakers extending this year's session to balance the state budget organizers think events like the Federal Reserve Cup will encourage kids to begin focusing on their financial futures before they step out into the real world.

"The smarter the individual citizen, the better decisions they make, the better the products need to be in the market, and the better decisions legislators will make," said Scott Guild, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

"I realize that my world is more complex than it used to be and it is for our young people and our citizens as well," said Jeb Spaulding, D-Vt. Treasurer. "So this is our attempt to build an interest at the school level in financial literacy."

Students say this information helps them get on the right track for spending as they prepare for their futures.

"Oh yeah definitely, after college and throughout college even, we're going to learn so much about how to manage our money and everything it will help us out a lot," Boomhower said.

Organizers say they would like to see financial education become mandatory in schools, but state officials are often hesitant.

"There's risky behavior when it comes to driving, we have drivers ed. There's risky behavior around sexual activity, we have programming for that. It would be nice to have a program about risky financial behaviors," Guild said.

Spaulding said he's happy to see some schools adding financial education to their curriculum, but doesn't plan on trying to make it a mandate.

The team from South Burlington High School won Friday's event and will represent Vermont in the New England Federal Reserve Cup in November.

[Molly Smith](#) - WCAX News

