

Caroline County Public Schools  
Essential Curriculum  
Economics

Course Description: This introductory course focuses on the functioning of the American economic system. Topics included are essential economic principles, concepts, and themes dealing with how individuals function as workers, consumers, and citizens.

**Unit 1: Fundamental Economic Concepts**

- Define economics and its fundamental principles.
- Differentiate between traditional, command, and market economies and discuss the major characteristics of the American free enterprise system.
- Identify the major types of economic organizations in the United States.

**Unit 2: Microeconomics**

- Explain how supply and demand interact to determine price.
- Describe the major types of economic markets in the United States.

**Unit 3: Macroeconomics: Institutions**

- Trace the development and influence of labor unions.
- Explain how government raises revenues and allocates expenditures.
- Describe the evolution of money and the banking system.
- Explain the organization and role of the Federal Reserve System, other financial institutions, and markets.

**Unit 4: Macroeconomics: Policies**

- Discuss the components of national income accounting that measure economic growth.
- Describe the phases of the business cycle and its possible causes.
- Explain the social costs of economic instability caused by inflation, unemployment, and poverty.
- Apply monetary and fiscal policy to promote economic growth and stability.

**Unit 5: International and Global Economics**

- Appreciate the interdependence among nations and the importance of international trade and foreign exchange.
- Compare the major economic systems of the world to capitalism.
- Analyze the problems of economically developing countries.
- Show how market prices help conserve limited resources.