



Knowledge Matters/DECA Virtual Business Challenge Competition Dates

Team registration begins on Tuesday, September 29th, 2026.



The first challenge round is October 13, 2026 – October 23, 2026
The second challenge round is January 12, 2027 – January 22, 2027

Mini-Challenges First Qualifying Round

October 14, 2026, 8:30 p.m. EST – October 15, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST
October 19, 2026, 8:30 p.m. EST – October 20, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST
October 21, 2026, 8:30 p.m. EST – October 22, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST

Mini-Challenges Second Qualifying Round

January 12, 2027, 8:30 p.m. EST – January 13, 2027, 5:00 p.m. EST
January 14, 2027, 8:30 p.m. EST – January 15, 2027, 5:00 p.m. EST
January 20, 2027, 8:30 p.m. EST – January 21, 2027, 5:00 p.m. EST

Knowledge Matters/DECA Digital Skills Challenge

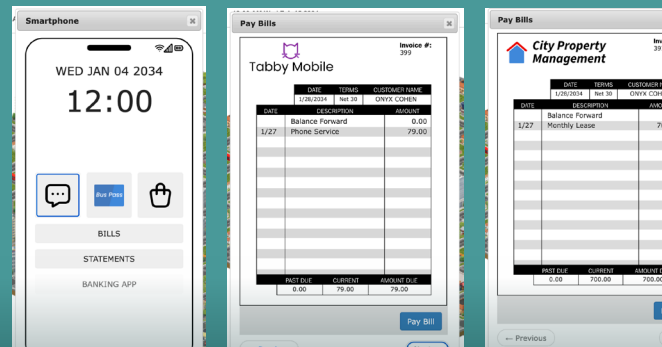
Jan 2, 2027 - Feb 1, 2027

Register today at knowledgematters.com/high-school/competitions



Simulation Update

Virtual Business Personal Finance Simulation



Revitalized Virtual Business Personal Finance Enhanced for Deeper Learning

Updated Grading Structure

Grading has been revised to better reflect student performance and progress. The Goal Step now accounts for 60% of the student grade (previously 20%) and includes partial credit opportunities and penalties, replacing the prior all-or-nothing grading model.

Mobile Phone Functionality Added

Driven by customer feedback, students can now complete authentic digital banking activities using the in-simulation mobile phone...just like they would in everyday life.

Credit Union Added

A new Credit Union has been added to the city, with related content updates incorporated throughout the simulation to provide students with broader exposure to real-world financial institutions.

Updated Career Paths & Values

Career pathways and lifestyle values have been refreshed to better align with current workforce trends, student interests, and modern financial realities.

Enhanced Academic Rigor & Critical Thinking

The simulation now provides increased rigor through higher DOK-level questions in the left-side navigation text and updated, more challenging goal phases that require students to think critically, evaluate and analyze information, and make decisions throughout the learning experience.

More Real World Visuals

Targeted visual enhancements modernize the simulation through refreshed business branding, redesigned credit cards, and other updated visuals that reflect today's financial tools.

Trade School Pathway Introduced

Students now have the option to attend Trade School in addition to a traditional university pathway, helping represent a wider range of postsecondary choices and career planning options.

Updated Readings & Assessment Questions

Readings and quiz questions throughout the simulation have been revised and refreshed to improve clarity, relevance, and alignment with updated product content and learning objectives.

