

## 2025 High School Fed Challenge Guidelines

### 1. Form a Team

- a. Teams can consist of up to five high school students. Additional alternates acceptable.
- b. Faculty advisers cannot have worked for the Federal Reserve System for two years prior to advising a team.
- c. All team members must be current students at a high school in the Chicago Federal Reserve 7<sup>th</sup> Bank District, which includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Indiana.
- d. All team members must be from the same high school.
- e. Only one team can enter per school.

### 2. Register Your Team

- a. Teams must register by email. **Deadline to register is Friday, January 31, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. CT.**
- b. To register, email: [education@chi.frb.org](mailto:education@chi.frb.org) with the following information:
  - i. School name
  - ii. Adviser(s) name(s) and email address(es)
  - iii. Students' names and email addresses
  - iv. Alternates' names
  - v. Primary contact
  - vi. School's experience in the Fed Challenge
  - vii. Video + Photo Release Form

\*Faculty advisers are required to ensure submission is received.
- c. Once registered, teams will receive a confirmation email from the Fed Challenge Team with a unique ID number.
- d. Teams will be assigned to one of two divisions:
  - i. **Yellen Division – Experienced.** These high schools have experience as finalists in a past High School Fed Challenge at the district level.
  - ii. **Bernanke Division – Rookie.** These high schools have not participated as finalists in the High School Fed Challenge or this is their first year participating.
  - iii. Please note: Division assignments are at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's discretion.

### 3. Watch Orientation Video

- a. **Orientation video release is scheduled for the week of January 13, 2025.**

- b. The orientation video will be available on the Chicago Fed's [High School Fed Challenge website](#).

#### 4. Develop Your Virtual Presentation

- a. Teams must prepare a 15 minute **presentation** based on content rubric (see [High School rubric, section III](#)) leading directly into your 10 minute Q&A. This year teams will be presenting **live** in front of 3 to 4 judges over Teams.
- b. It is recommended that teams practice their presentation in advance to stay within the 15 minute time limit.
- c. Teams may choose to include a slide deck alongside video, but this is not required.
- d. Presentations are scored on content and team work. (See [High School rubric, section III](#)).
- e. Presentations should be no longer than 15 minutes.
- f. Paper submissions are not accepted.
- g. Do **not** identify your school or names during your presentation. For the purposes of fair judging, proposals must exclude any identification of team members, advisers, or school affiliations. This includes school colors, emblems, and logos.
- h. Your LIVE Presentation should follow the [High School rubric](#) and include the following elements:
  - i. An analysis of current economic conditions (as of the day of the competition); these conditions may include broad macroeconomic conditions as well as conditions experienced in different geographic areas, urban/rural areas, or different demographic and socioeconomic groups (e.g., racial and ethnic groups or age groups), borrowers and savers, etc.
    - 1. Please note: Once registered, teams will receive materials pertaining to a December Economic outlook symposium.
    - 2. We encourage participants to use the January Federal Reserve FOMC meeting as a jumping off point.
  - ii. A forecast of near-term economic and financial conditions relevant to the formulation of monetary policy;
  - iii. A discussion of significant risks to the economy that should receive special attention in formulating monetary policy; these risks may include the possible effects (positive or negative) of monetary policies on different segments of the population.
  - iv. A monetary policy recommendation, encompassing both traditional tools and newer approaches as warranted. Presenters should give supporting reasons for their recommendation.

**5. Scheduling your 15 minute Presentation followed by 10 minute Q & A**

- a. Each registered team will receive a designated and unique team ID number once registered.
- b. Your team will receive an email from [education@chi.frb.org](mailto:education@chi.frb.org) to schedule **your virtual Fed Challenge date and time during the week of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- c. Each virtual meeting will be scheduled for 30 minutes, 15 minutes for your Presentation, 10 minutes for Q&A and 5 minutes grace time.
- d. Your 30 minute virtual meeting will be recorded

**6. Fed Challenge organizers announce winners**

- a. Final winners will be announced during **the week of March 31<sup>st</sup> at an online event**. All teams will be invited to this online event.
- b. The winning teams' virtual session will be posted to the Chicago Fed's website.
- c. Highlights will be included on the Chicago Fed's social media pages.

**7. Competition Tips:**

- Judges will ask questions to get a feel for the baseline of knowledge of the team
  - o These might be easier or harder than expected
- Take turns answering questions, but everyone should not answer each question
  - o Consider topic experts
- Team cohesion easy to spot; practice together as much as possible – especially fielding questions
- Know the roles of the Fed outside of the monetary policy arm; the other two are payment services and supervision & regulation (especially this latter one)
- Keep in mind what expands/contract money supply
- Be prepared to explain expected outcome of your recommendations
- Mock/Practice your presentation in front of people as much as possible
- Think about how Fed's actions impact the economy (occasionally teams get bogged down in the data and forget to think about the bigger picture)
- Know about the topic of unemployment – not just the figures (the theories)
- Visit [FinReg21.com](http://FinReg21.com) to get latest information on financial regulatory issues