OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE FINANCIAL SCHOLARS ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner (KSC), the Office of the State Bank Commissioner (OSBC) and the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) are consumer protection agencies dedicated to keeping Kansans informed about issues concerning their finances, and promoting integrity and increasing transparency and fairness in the financial services industry. Our agencies are sponsoring an essay competition and will award up to nine scholarships to Kansas high school seniors this school year.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

First Place: $2,500
Second Place: $2,000
Third Place: $1,500
Fourth Place: $1,000
Fifth Place: $500

Up to four $250 Honorable Mention awards will also be issued to students.

STUDENT TOPIC ASSIGNMENT

Essay Part 1
In 1-2 pages:

Write an essay on one of the following financial challenges:

A. Picture what your life could look like twenty years from now. Write about some of the decisions you will need to make regarding your topic of choice (selections below), and how making wise financial decisions early could put you in a better place at that time.

   - Topic Selections:
     - Savings/Budgets
     - Banking, Credit and Loans
     - Investing/Saving for Retirement and Insurance

   Incorporate some of the following thoughts into your essay: What is your profession and how much are you making? Do you have a spouse or children? Where are you living? Are you still paying off student loans? What does the world around you look like?

B. Discuss a real-life event that you or a friend or family member has experienced that made a significant impact on your view of money management. How has that experience affected your approach to managing your own money?
Essay Part 2: Real-world Application
Accompanying Part 1, provide a 3 to 6-page analysis (800-1500 words) of how you will apply what you wrote about in the topic assignment to your own life as you prepare for your future. Please incorporate at least two of the following into your analysis:

- Comparison of the cost of various types of higher education (i.e. technical college, community college, 4-year college, private vs. public school, or the choice of a school in Kansas vs. out-of-state school, etc.)
- The positive and negative aspects of getting a loan for higher education versus paying your way through college (through scholarships, working during school, or finding more affordable educational options, etc.)
- The earning potential of your chosen degree/major or career, and the average debt load and pay-off time the average graduate in that field will face upon completing higher education. Consider also: job availability and demand, and jobs graduates are actually acquiring with your chosen degree

WHO
The competition is open to any public, private or homeschool Kansas high school Senior who meets the following two qualifications:

1) **The Senior must be planning to attend a Kansas technical school, college or university.**
   Not attending a Kansas school of higher learning will constitute forfeiture of the award.

2) **The Senior must have enrolled in and *completed at least one KSC/OSBC/KID sponsored program (EverFi, The Stock Market Game or the Personal Financial Challenge contest) during their high school career.** A parent or teacher will be asked to verify student participation in one of the sponsored programs to confirm eligibility. *Successful completion of a sponsored course by April 20th is required.

Teacher Prizes:
The teacher of the first-place student winner will receive a $150 gift card to the teacher supply store of his or her choice.

The teacher who is credited with the most **valid** entries submitted will receive a $100 gift card.

*If you are not enrolled in a sponsored program but would like to enroll for free today and be eligible for this year’s Essay Scholarship Contest, call Shannon Santschi at 785.296.1055 or Dana Branam at 785.296.1783.

**“Valid” means that the essay meets the appropriate length and submission requirements. Incomplete entries will not count.
HOW

- Style: Op-ed (MLA or APA accepted)
- Format: Word document
- Entries must be in English and typed in 12-point font and double-spaced.
- The profile portion should not exceed 500 words.
- The personal application and analysis portion should be between 800 and 1500 words.
- Citation from credible sources is encouraged and expected.
- A completed Entry Form must accompany each essay submission. Words on Entry Form will not count toward the total word count. The Entry Form may be typed or neatly handwritten.

WHEN

Essay submissions will be accepted from January 8, 2018 until **11:59 p.m. CST, Tuesday, March 27, 2018.** Judge’s clock is the official time keeper.

Entry forms and essays should be merged into one single Word document attachment if possible and emailed by the deadline to FinancialScholarsEssay@gmail.com.

Please save the document as <School_FirstNameLastName> i.e. RiversideHigh_JohnBrown. Please list the document in this same format in the email subject line.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS & AWARDS CEREMONY

The winning essays will be announced on or before Friday, April 20, 2018 via KSC (@KansasSecurities) and OSBC (@ksosbc) Facebook Pages.

Scholarships will be awarded at the 2018 Financial Scholars Awards Ceremony in Topeka, Kansas on **Monday, April 30, 2018.** Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the ceremony unless they have a sufficient reason for not attending. Honorable Mention awardees are welcome to attend the Ceremony, but may choose to have their award mailed to their home address.

JUDGING & LEGAL TERMS

Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of and Adherence to Essay Requirements **(30 points)**
  - Student demonstrates knowledge and the importance of financial literacy; student accurately makes connections between Essay Part 1 (topic assignment to Essay Part 2 (analysis bullet points)}
• Personal Expression, Fluency and Supporting Evidence (40 points)
  ○ Student uses personality in their writing; essays are organized with clear introduction, body and conclusion; sentences/paragraphs flow smoothly; credible sources are used to support information given; essay highlights a positive theme

• Word choice), Punctuation and Spelling (30 points)
  ○ Student displays wide vocabulary range and good word choice; proper grammar is displayed with little to no grammatical errors

By submitting an entry to the competition, entrants acknowledge that all submissions may be posted on the Offices of the State Banking Commissioner (OSBC), the Securities Commissioner (KSC) and the Kansas Insurance Department’s (KID) websites or their social media outlets, as well as the KansasMoney.gov website for viewing by the general public. Entrants also grant in perpetuity, a nonexclusive license to edit, publish, display, duplicate or otherwise use the submission, and photographs and video of the participants in connection with this contest, for the Sponsors (OSBC, KSC and KID) and their Designees in their sole discretion whatsoever and without further notice or compensation.