

# A Message to Educators

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*The Basics of Savings and Investing: Investor Education 2020* is a project of the Investor Protection Trust (IPT).

The IPT is a nonprofit organization devoted to investor education. Created in 1993, the Investor Protection Trust works with the States and at the national level to provide the independent, objective investor education needed by all Americans to make informed investment decisions. Since 1998, we have worked with more than 40,000 high school teachers, distributing curricula and conducting more than 350 teacher training sessions across the country.

*The Basics of Savings and Investing: Investor Education 2020* is a unique teaching tool that will provide school age and adult learners with non-commercial information that they need to know for sound financial decision making and investing throughout their lives. You can use *The Basics of Saving and Investing: Investor Education 2020* as the framework for an entire course or as part of a semester or year of instruction. The guide is complete with lesson plans, worksheets, overheads/pass-outs and tests covering each unit.

Conveniently divided into four self-contained units, Basics focuses on the following learning objectives:

- Understanding the financial markets
- Making sound financial and investment decisions
- Selecting among the various saving and investing options
- Finding and utilizing investment information
- Recognizing and victim-proofing yourself against investment fraud
- Knowing how regulators help to protect investors

*The Basics of Saving and Investing: Investor Education 2020* is available for download on the IPT website at [www.investorprotection.org/teach](http://www.investorprotection.org/teach) along with additional investor education booklets and a variety of video clips from the national MoneyTrack public television series. The video clips have been matched with the Units of *The Basics*, and selected video can be downloaded and embedded into presentations to use as part of your class.

We hope you will join the thousands of educators using this Investor Protection Trust teaching guide. We trust that you will find it an enriching experience in many ways.

Sincerely,

The Investor Protection Trust  
[www.investorprotection.org](http://www.investorprotection.org)

# Acknowledgements

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- Five Keys to Investing Success
- The Basics for Investing in Stocks
- A Primer for Investing in Bonds
- Mutual Funds and ETFS: Maybe All You'll Ever Need
- Getting Help With Your Investments
- Maximize Your Retirement Investments
- Where to Invest Your College Money

# The Basics of Savings and Investing:

## INVESTOR EDUCATION 2020

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### **INTRODUCTION**

- Welcoming letter — A Message to Educators
- Acknowledgements

### **UNIT 1 — Getting Started (PP 1.1 – 1.27)**

- Defining “Investor Education”
- Why People Save and Invest
- How to Think About Making Financial Decisions
- Key Concepts of Saving and Investing
- Unit 1 Test/Answer Key

### **UNIT 2 — Introduction to Financial Markets (PP 2.1 – 2.31)**

- Understanding Risk and Reward
- How Financial Markets Work
- Savings, Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds and Other Investments
- Regulation of Financial Markets
- Unit 2 Test/Answer Key

### **UNIT 3 — Making a Financial Investment Plan (PP 3.1 – 3.33)**

- Introduction to Financial Planning/Investing Concepts
- Framing a Plan to Meet Individuals’ Financial Goals
- Selecting Financial Professionals
- Unit 3 Test/Answer Key

### **UNIT 4 — Investment Fraud (PP 4.1 – 4.24)**

- Introduction to Investment Scams, Schemes and Swindles
- How Telemarketing Fraud Works — Inside the “Boiler Room”
- Teach Individuals to Become “Victim-Proof”: Self-Defense Tips Against Fraud
- How Regulators Help to Protect Investors
- Unit 4 Test/Answer Key

### **APPENDIX (PP A.1 – A.13)**

- Resources and Materials
- Organizations and Agencies
- Glossary of Terms