
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF THE **AUDITOR GENERAL** FACT SHEET



2026 Financial Literacy Activity Book Competition Fact Sheet

Background

Since 2021, Auditor General DeFoor has been raising awareness about the need for financial literacy in the Commonwealth through his Be Money \$mart initiative, a grassroots program designed to help prepare the next generation of financially secure Pennsylvanians.

Through this initiative, he has crisscrossed Pennsylvania visiting state and state-related universities, community colleges, HBCUs, high schools, YMCAs and libraries, to emphasize the importance of knowing how to be financially literate. He has also developed a list of community partners that include financial institutions, credit unions and local organizations who are educating their communities on financial literacy.

Last year, the Auditor General hosted a student art competition asking students in grades K-12 to help design the cover of a brand-new financial literacy activity book. This activity book provided students with hands-on financial literacy activities and helped these students engage in money conversations with their parents, friends, peers and teachers.

Due to the success of last year's art competition, we are getting ready to launch the second-annual competition for Pennsylvania students.

How well did last year's financial literacy activity book competition perform?

Last year, nearly 215 students from across the state submitted entries for the activity book competition. We selected eight finalists and chose one winner:

- Olivia Green, 9th Grade, Luzerne County (winner)
- Henry Reilly, 8th Grade, York County
- Abigail Thompson, 10th Grade, Luzerne County
- Aaron Siregar, 8th Grade, Lebanon County
- Milania Rohozhynska, 4th Grade, Philadelphia County
- Elizabeth Kalista, 3rd Grade, Blair County
- Orliemily Medina Padron, 9th Grade, Luzerne County
- Briana Curty, 9th Grade, Lancaster County

You can find the winner's cover [here](http://www.paauditor.gov/activitybook) (www.paauditor.gov/activitybook).

When will this year's competition launch and what are the details?

We are launching this year's competition on October 1, 2026. The competition will be for students in grades K-12. This year, we will be selecting 3 winning covers: one from grades K-5; one from grades 6-8; and one from grades 9-12. Submissions will be due on Oct. 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

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When will the winners be announced?

Winners will be announced in November before Thanksgiving at a press event. We will coordinate with each winner's school, parent/guardian and local legislator to determine a date that works best.

Each winner will receive their very own copy of the activity book with the cover they designed and a special recognition letter from the Auditor General. Legislators may also provide a recognition letter to the student winner if they choose.

How can a student submit their entry?

Students can submit their entry online at <https://www.paauditor.gov/take-action/be-money-smart/activitybook/activity-book-cover-contest/>. Student submissions must be drawn on the provided template to be considered, and entries must follow the guidelines outlined on the website.

How can I help?

We'd love your help in promoting this year's competition! You can do this by including information about the activity book in your newsletters or sharing on social media. For your convenience, we drafted sample email/newsletter copy for you and provided a sample social media post with a graphic. You may also choose to reshare any of our content about the competition.

If you'd like to help promote the competition in-person, please reach out to our office. We can work together to coordinate an in-person visit to a local organization or school.

Where can I find a digital version of last year's activity book?

You may download last year's activity book from our website: www.paauditor.gov/activitybook (QR code)

Where can I find more information?

More information on this year's activity book can be found on our website, www.paauditor.gov/activitybook. Please note that this website will not be live until the official activity book launch on Oct. 1, 2026.