

# Financial education in schools survey 2025: Key insights

**Ecstra's Financial education in schools survey 2025 asked parents, students and teachers about their experiences, behaviours and attitudes to teaching financial education in Australian schools, and the importance of learning about money at home.**

The survey results confirm there is strong consensus across students, parents and teachers that financial education is essential for young Australians as it helps them make informed decisions and prepare for the future.

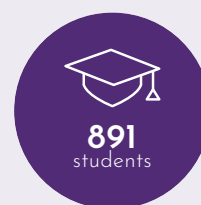
YouGov conducted a nationally representative survey of 2,123 Australians<sup>1</sup> comprising:



who teach students  
aged 10 to 17

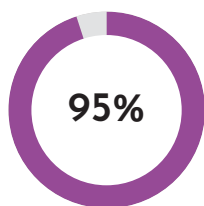


of students aged  
10 to 17

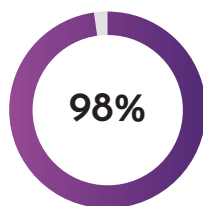


aged 10 to 17

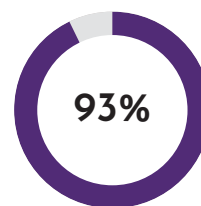
## Learning about money is important



of **teachers** say  
it is important to  
learn about money  
and finance



of **parents** say  
it is important to  
learn about money  
and finance



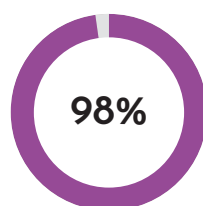
of **students** say  
it is important  
to learn about  
money and finance

## Financial education is more important than ever

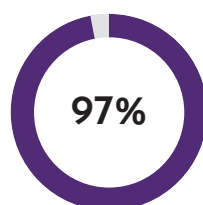
Over two thirds of teachers (73%) and parents (68%) believe financial education has become even more important in the last 12 months, because of:

- cost of living, rising inflation and economic uncertainty
- increasing financial system complexity
- growing influence of social media and the move to digital transactions.

## Financial education should be taught at school



of **teachers** agree financial education  
should be taught in schools



of **parents** agree financial education  
should be taught in schools

However, 57% of parents say their child is not learning, or they do not know if their child is learning about money concepts at school. 65% of students say they have learnt about money concepts at school.

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**Financial literacy has become increasingly important due to the growing complexity of financial systems, the rise of digital transactions, and easier access to credit.**

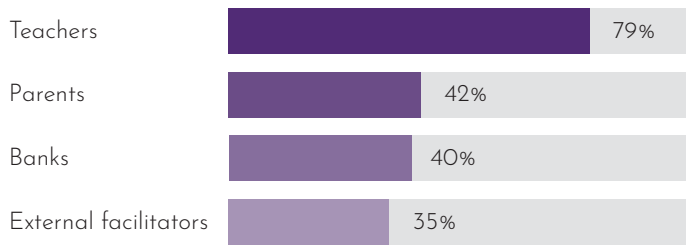
Parent

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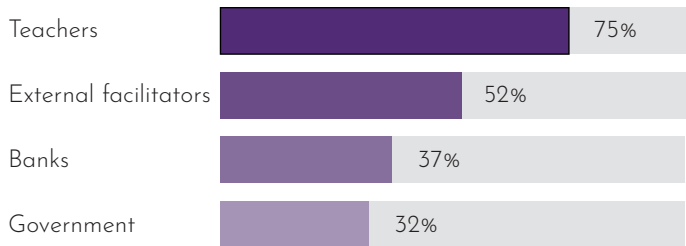
1. Research for this project was conducted by YouGov. Data for each cohort was weighted by age, gender, and location to ensure the results are nationally representative of the broader cohort within the population. The surveys were administered in March 2025, and this document provides a snapshot of the key research findings. This document may be cited as: Ecstra Foundation (2025), *Financial education in schools survey 2025: Key insights*. Research conducted by YouGov.

# Who should teach financial education in schools?

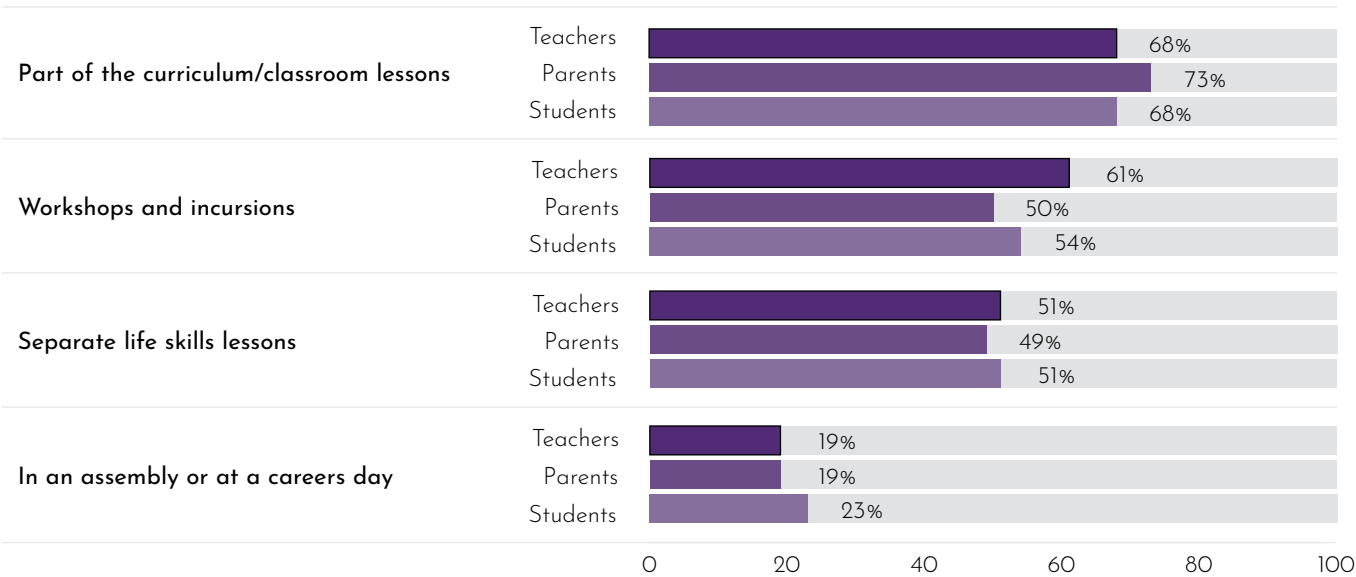
Parents say financial education should be delivered by:



Teachers say financial education should be delivered by:

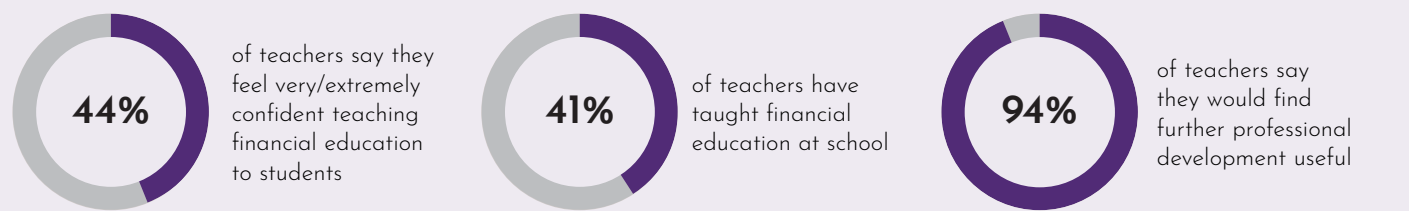


# How should financial education be taught in schools?



Teachers say using real-life examples (75%), tailoring to students' life stages (68%) and linking to the curriculum (61%) could improve the effectiveness of financial education.

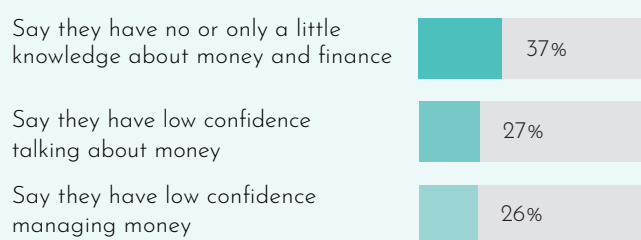
# Teachers' experience of teaching financial education varies



Most useful professional development activities and resources:

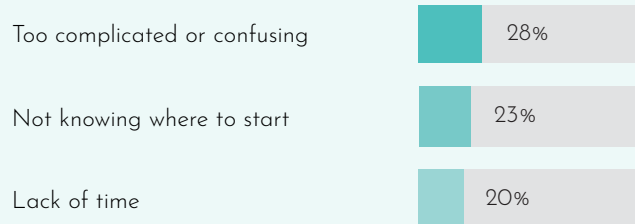


## Students' money knowledge and confidence gaps



Only 26% state they have high personal knowledge levels about money and finance. A third report high confidence levels talking about money (35%) and managing money (35%).

## Students face a range of barriers to learning about money



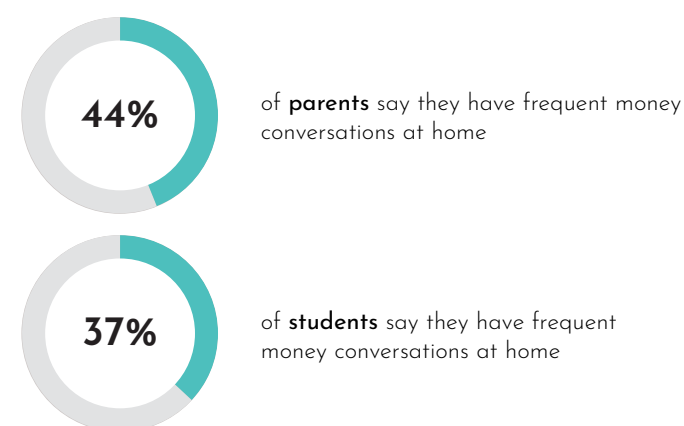
65% of students say they face barriers to learning about money.

## Students learn about money at home, but families need help to talk about money and finance

Students most commonly report learning about money at home (80%), followed by school (65%).

Social media is increasingly used as a source of information, with 70% of students using it to learn about money including 17% who do so often/always.

More than half (55%) of parents face barriers teaching/talking to their children about money. Barriers include:

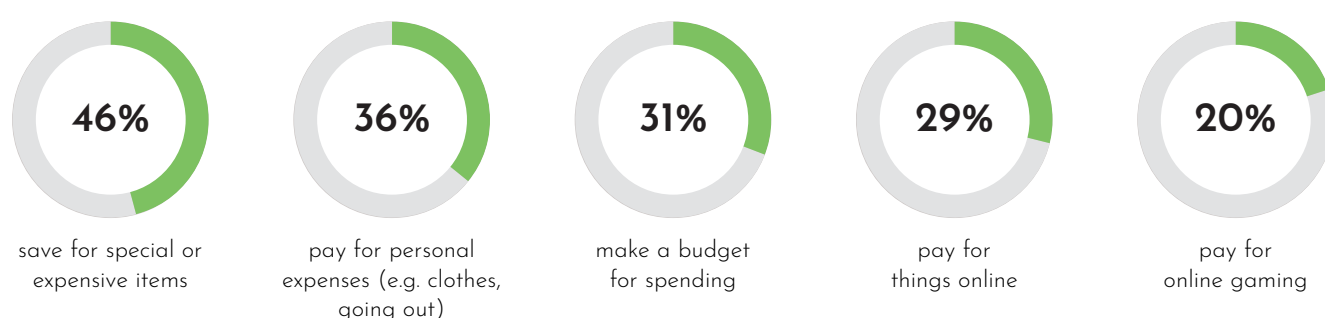


Parents say resources on what to talk about (51%), resources on how to talk about money (51%) and improved personal knowledge (51%) would help them have money conversations at home.

## Students are active consumers

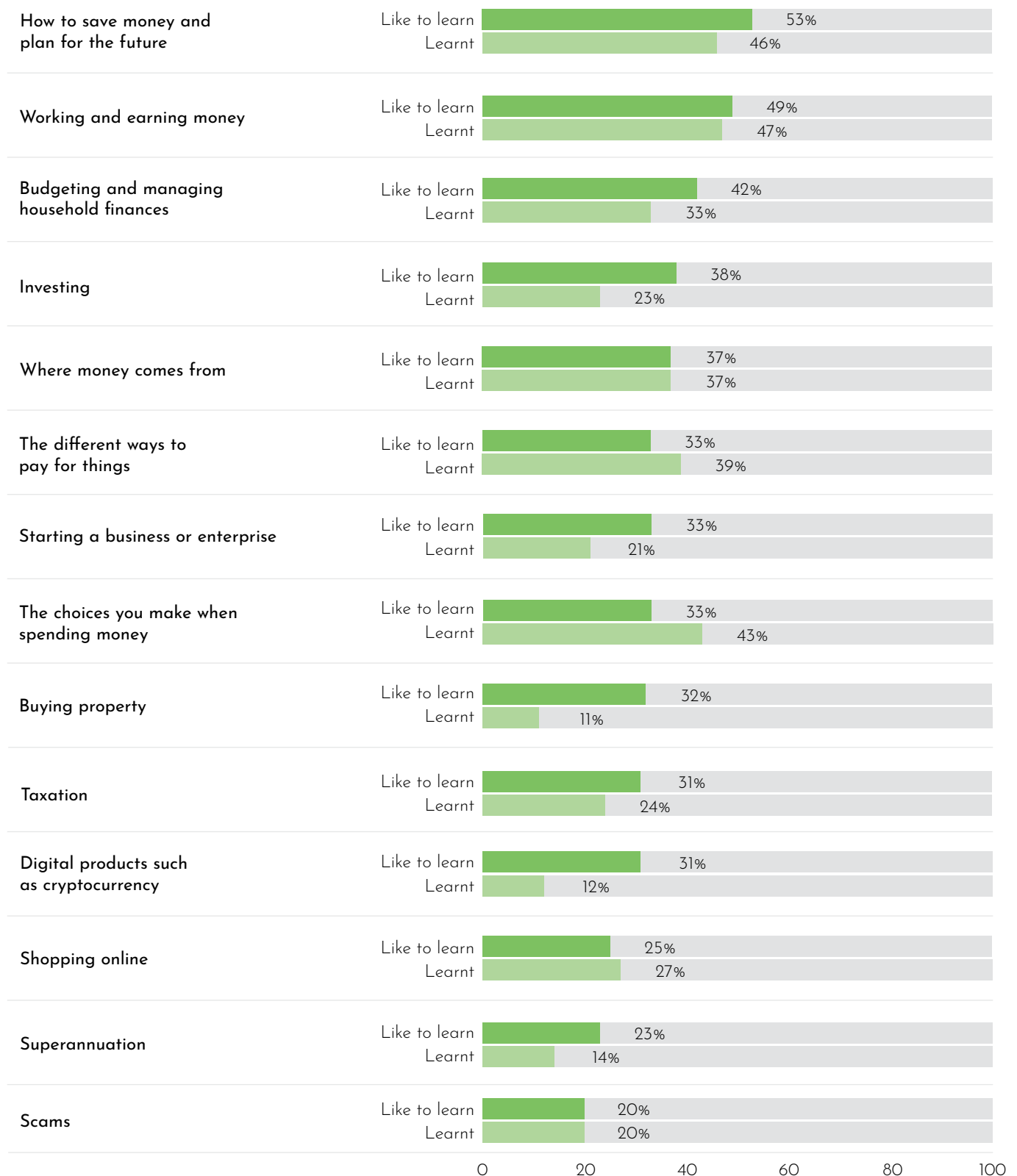
Nearly all students (98%) receive money from parents/family members or employment, and are actively spending and managing money. Of those who receive money, 47% save most or all of it, 47% save some of it, while 6% don't save any.

Top money activities include:



# Students want to learn more about core money topics

What students want to learn more about at school and what they actually learn about:

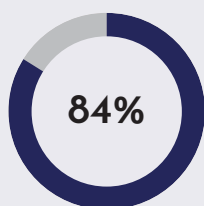


Despite the increasing proliferation of scams and students' online spending activity, only 20% of students say they have learnt about scams at school and 27% report learning about online shopping. Further, only 35% of parents report discussing scams with children at home and only 30% said they had discussed online shopping.

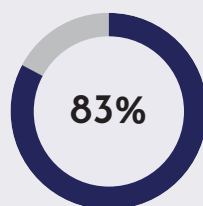
## Students and digital financial safety

45% of students reported receiving an email, SMS/text message, or other digital communication from an unknown sender in the past 6 months.

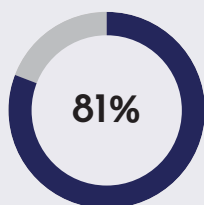
Students generally report good awareness and application of digital financial safety measures. Students say they:



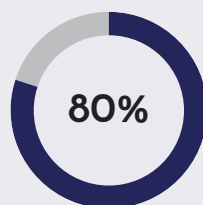
are careful about sharing personal information online



never tell other people their passwords



always lock their device/phone when not using it

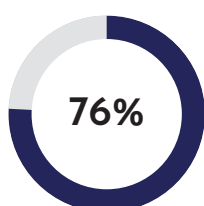


never open attachments or click on links from an unknown sender

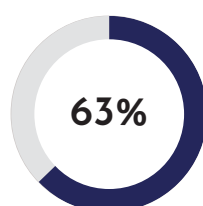
## Students' confidence navigating digital transactions

There is room to improve students' confidence navigating digital transactions, with confidence lower in transferring money online and ensuring the safety of sensitive information.

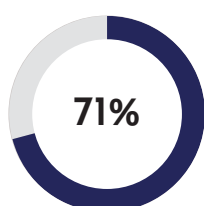
Students say they are confident or very confident:



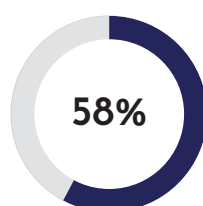
paying for items with a debit card



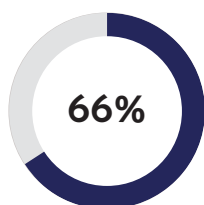
ensuring safety of sensitive information when making a payment or banking online



keeping track of their bank balance



transferring money



paying with a mobile device

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Social platforms and the internet make managing money more complex. There are so many more temptations to spend unwisely, cost of living has had a great impact making saving more difficult. Young people need support to budget and spend wisely.

Teacher

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Learning about money and finance is crucial for achieving financial stability, independence, and security. It empowers individuals to make informed decisions, manage debt, and maximise wealth. Understanding personal finance concepts helps navigate complex markets, avoid costly mistakes, and achieve freedom.

Student

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## Elevating financial education in schools

Ecstra's *Financial education in schools survey 2025* confirms that teaching financial education in schools is highly valued by parents, students and teachers.

Financial literacy is included in the Australian Curriculum, taught primarily through maths, humanities and social sciences, and technologies. A range of programs and initiatives also offer financial literacy education, including by State and Federal education bodies, regulators, commercial and community organisations.

Despite this, Ecstra's survey results show there are gaps in knowledge, confidence and expectations, with only 65% of students reporting having learnt about money and finance at school. Teachers play a crucial role in delivering financial education, however many do not feel adequately equipped to teach it. Parents recognise their role in teaching children about money but often grapple with time constraints, knowledge and confidence gaps.

The survey insights provide a number of opportunities to bridge the gaps—to improve student access to effective programs, to engage students through real life examples, provide more support to teachers and parents, and to elevate financial literacy as a stand-alone compulsory learning area within the Australian Curriculum. Championing the importance of financial education as part of a coordinated national financial capability strategy, led by government, will help lift students' financial literacy and positively impact long term economic and social wellbeing.

Investments in these areas will help ensure more students have the access, opportunity and skills to talk and learn about money, to make informed decisions at key life stages and build a secure financial future.

## About Ecstra Foundation


Ecstra Foundation is committed to a future where people can achieve their best financial wellbeing.

We invest in partnerships, programs and people to provide effective financial education at key life stages and to improve community financial capability and wellbeing. We also support consumer organisations working to address the many structural barriers to greater financial inclusion and economic security.


Ecstra collaborates with government, community organisations, industry, consumer groups, educators and researchers who share a commitment to improving the financial wellbeing of people and communities.


Our flagship financial literacy program, Talk Money with Ecstra Foundation, ensures more Australian students have access to effective money lessons and guidance when they need it. Talk Money is the largest free, face-to-face financial education initiative offered in schools nationwide.

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