



*Your dream, your plan, **your future***

Navigating Your Financial Future offers many free financial resources such as online workshops, helpful links, recorded presentations, a monthly E-newsletter, and more!

Questions?

Visit www.NavigatingYourFuture.org and select the "Contact Us" tab to request additional assistance from an Outreach Representative.

Additional Resources:

www.Equifax.com

www.Experian.com

www.TransUnion.com



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

www.NavigatingYourFuture.org



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Managing Your Credit



*your dream, your plan, **your future*** **NyFF**
NAVIGATING YOUR
FINANCIAL FUTURE

MANAGING YOUR CREDIT

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN GOOD CREDIT

UNDERSTAND YOUR CREDIT REPORT/SCORE

GUARD AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

- Pay monthly bills ON TIME
- Prepare a realistic budget
- Open a checking or savings account
- Compare interest rates on credit cards and choose a low rate
- Sign back of credit card or write "Ask for ID" to protect your identity
- Charge only what you can afford to pay
- Pay more than the minimum payment to reduce your balance at a faster rate
- Keep your contact information current to ensure timely delivery of statements

Identity theft occurs when someone obtains and uses your identifying information (name, address, date of birth, Social Security Number, or mother's maiden name) to commit fraud. An imposter can open credit card accounts, purchase cars, apply for loans, drain bank accounts, or open utility services in your name.

Protect your Identity

- Sign the back of all credit cards OR Write "Ask for ID"
- Leave important documents at HOME
- Protect passwords and PINs
- Do not give out your Social Security Number or account information by phone or on the internet unless YOU initiated the call and KNOW it is a reputable institution
- Shred old receipts, applications, outdated documents

Victim of Identity Theft?

- Notify all creditors and financial institutions immediately and in writing
- Contact fraud unit of all three consumer reporting agencies and have a fraud alert placed on your credit report
- File a report with local police department
- Report crime to the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov/idtheft or call 877-IDTHEFT
- To report fraudulent use of a Social Security Number, file a report at 800-269-0271

Free Credit Report:

www.AnnualCreditReport.com

Consumer reporting agencies:
Equifax, TransUnion, Experian

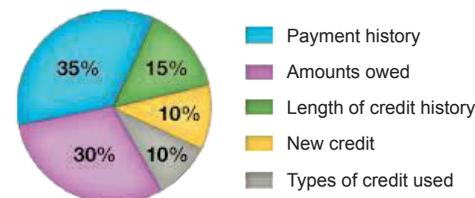
Credit reports reveal your financial habits to potential lenders. Check your report for accuracy of personal information: address, social security number, date of birth, employers, account information, payment history, public record information.

Errors can be reported by filing a **consumer dispute**. The consumer reporting agency is obligated to investigate the dispute within 30 days and respond.

Credit scores, also known as FICO scores, reflect credit "risk" level of the person borrowing money.

Low score = high risk of not paying money back
High score = low risk/money is paid back promptly

Credit scores are determined from:



Credit Score Range:
300 (Bad) – 850 (Excellent)

Source: www.myfico.com