

# Illinois Economics Challenge (ILEC) Testing Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 1.17.2012

## [EconChallenge ONLINE! Testing Information:](#)

Eligibility criteria governing student participation has changed for the 2012 competition, for details on eligibility and for other program **changes** from the previous year, please reference question #s: 4,7,9,17.

**1. Q. What is the Illinois Economics Challenge (ILEC) ONLINE?**

A. The Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE! is a competition for students in grades 9-12 from public, private, charter, or home schools in Illinois to demonstrate their knowledge of economics.

**2. Q. What are the dates for the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE! testing?**

A. The Economics Challenge ONLINE! testing will run from March 15, 2012, until noon on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

**3. Q. Is there a cost to participate in the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE!?**

A. The Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE! is free to all Illinois high school participants.

**4. Q. Do my students need to be enrolled in economics coursework during the 2011-2012 school year to be eligible for participation in the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE!?**

A. Yes, **and the qualifying courses have changed.** Participating high school students must be enrolled during this academic year in: Advanced Placement (AP Micro, AP Macro, or AP Micro and Macro), International Baccalaureate (pre IB and IB), honors, two-semester, or any other advanced courses in economics (including courses taught by a secondary teacher where students can earn college credit).

**5. Q. Are there divisional competitions in the Illinois Economics Challenge competition?**

A. Not in Illinois. Illinois is able to offer the Adam Smith Division *only*.

**6. Q. Is there a limit to the number of teams I can register to participate in the Economics Challenge ONLINE! competition?**

A. No. Teachers can register as many teams as they wish to participate in the Economics Challenge ONLINE! competition. Teachers may choose to register an entire class, and many times all students in multiple classes, to participate.

**7. Q. How many levels of competition are there in the Illinois Economics Challenge competition?**

A. There are four levels of competition for the 2011-2012 academic year – the ONLINE! state competition taking place in March, the on-site State Finals competition in mid-April, the National Semi-finals competition (held simultaneously at each state championship school) in late April, and the National Finals competition to be held in New York City in May.

Please visit [www.econchallenge.org](http://www.econchallenge.org) and click on Illinois for specific details applicable to the Spring 2012 competition. For specific dates please click on the *Dates and Times* page.

**8. Q. How are tests scored?**

**A. 1. For the Online competition level:**

Students earn 10 points for each correct answer, have 5 points deducted for each incorrect answer, and earn 0 points for unanswered questions. The top three individual scores for a team will be combined to form the team's overall score (the lowest individual score will be dropped). Individual student scores are not available.

## 2. For the National Semi-finals & the National Finals competition levels:

Information will be available on the national [Council for Economic Education webpage](#) during the spring semester:

### 9. Q. How can I ensure my students are prepared for the Illinois Economics ONLINE! competition?

- A. Students who are enrolled in an approved economics course (see Question #4) this academic year and who are actively being coached in preparation for the competition will be best prepared to participate. Suggested resources for preparing can be found on the [Tools and Resources document](#).

### 10. Q. How do I begin the process of participating in the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE!?

- A. Go to the *How it Works* section of the Economics Challenge website at: [www.econchallenge.org](http://www.econchallenge.org) for specific step-by-step instructions on how to register and participate in the Economics Challenge ONLINE! competition.

### 11. Q. Do I need to submit a Student Registration Form for each student taking the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE! test?

- A. Yes. The registering teacher is required to submit, via fax or mail, a completed and signed two-page Student Registration Form for each student participating in the Economics Challenge ONLINE! testing.

Note that both a parent (if the student is under 18) and teacher must sign this form. A parental signature is required for proof of parental permission to participate in the Economics Challenge ONLINE! and the advanced levels of competition, should the student qualify to advance. *Parental signature is required if the student is not 18 years of age or older as of January 1, 2012.*

ECON ILLINOIS REQUEST: If a teacher is submitting more than 20 total pages of registration forms, please mail to the following address: Illinois Econ Challenge, Econ Illinois, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

The students' coursework selections and required signatures must be reviewed for accuracy by the Teacher/Team Coach **prior to** submission to Econ Illinois. The Team Coach must then sign to approve each of his/her Student Registration Forms after reviewing the students' coursework selections and consent (dependent on age) to confirm the student is eligible to compete.

This two-page Student Registration Form must be faxed to the Econ Illinois offices at 815.753.0355 by noon on February 27, or mailed to Econ Illinois offices, postmarked no later than February 27, 2012.

We will confirm receipt of any and all faxes and registration forms mailed or faxed to our offices via email to the registering teacher. Should any information be missing or incomplete on any Student Registration Form, we will be in contact with the registering teacher prior to the competition. **NOTE: For any student who takes the Economics Challenge ONLINE! test but who does not have a completed Student Registration Form on file, Econ Illinois reserves the right to disqualify that student and the team.**

### 12. Q. Do I need to submit a Team Coach Registration Form?

- A. Yes. Each teacher wishing to create a student team(s) to participate in the Economics Challenge ONLINE! must submit a completed Team Coach Registration Form. After completing the online registration at [www.econchallenge.org](http://www.econchallenge.org), teachers must submit the completed Team Coach Registration Form, along with the separate Student Registration Forms for students wishing to participate.

The two-page Team Coach Registration Form, like the student registration forms, must be faxed to the Econ Illinois offices at 815.753.0355 or postmarked by February 27, 2012.

**13. Q. How do I access the online testing for my students to participate in the Competition and how does the testing work?**

- A. Once you have submitted all of the completed Student Registration Forms and your Team Coach Registration Form, and all these documents have been approved by Econ Illinois, your online teacher registration will be approved. You will then receive an email that will direct you how to log onto the EconChallenge website to create your student teams.

Your student team(s) can test anytime within the online testing window. It is the Team Coach's responsibility to secure a testing facility (usually a school computer lab) and schedule a date & time within the testing window, during which all team members can test. Please notify Econ Illinois of the date(s) and time(s) your student team(s) will be testing.

IMPORTANT: Each student on a team takes an online test in which questions are randomly selected from an existing test bank. **Members of a team** must test within the same 3-hour timeframe. *Individual students* on a team each have a 35-minute time limit in which to test (within their team's 3-hour time limit). All students must complete the test individually to be eligible for advanced levels of the competition.

It is the responsibility of the Team Coach to communicate to Econ Illinois if any student who registered to participate in the ILEC ONLINE! test was unable to participate. Students who do not participate in the ONLINE! competition cannot participate in the State Finals competition, should their team qualify.

**14. Q. Do all students take the same test for the online competition?**

- A. All students take an Advanced Placement, 30-question multiple-choice test. Questions for each test are pulled randomly from a test bank.

**15. Q. Can my student teams take the online test collectively?**

- A. No. Although all team members must take the online test within the team time frame allotted (a 3 hour window), **team members are prohibited from working collectively on any part of the test.** Team members must test on an individual basis in order to be eligible to participate in advanced competitions. Team members may test one after another on one computer or at the same time on separate computers – whatever your resources allow. Participating teachers are on their honor to ensure that the rules of the competition are followed.

**16. Q. Can I get the individual scores for each of my students that participated in the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE competition?**

- A. Unfortunately, no; individual scoring is not available for distribution.

**17. Q. What recognition is given to participants who compete in the Illinois Economics Challenge ONLINE! competition?**

- A. Printable online certificates will be available for all participating students and teachers. The ten top-scoring teams will advance to the on-site state competition.

**[On-Site Illinois Economics Challenge \(State Finals\) Information:](#)**

[An on-site state finals will take place for the 2012 competition. Please read this section carefully.](#)

**18. Q. When is the Illinois Economics Challenge state finals competition?**

- A. The state finals will be held on-site at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in mid-April. Please visit: [www.econchallenge.org](http://www.econchallenge.org) and click on Illinois for specific details applicable to the Spring 2012 competition. For specific dates, please click on the *Dates and Times* page.

**19. Q. Is there a cost to participate in the Illinois Economics Challenge state finals?**

- A. No. Illinois Economics Challenge is free to all Illinois high school students and teachers who meet the criteria to compete.

**20. Q. Do you offer travel stipends for teams traveling to the State Finals competition?**

- A. Yes. An [Application for Travel Stipend](#) will accompany information sent to team coaches for teams confirmed to attend the State Finals event. Travel stipends will be awarded following the State Finals event.

**NOTE: In order to qualify for a travel stipend the team coach and all students must have remained through the conclusion of the event.** Teams that leave the competition early may be ineligible to receive a travel stipend.

**21. Q. What are the rules for the Illinois Economic Challenge state finals competition?**

- A. [Rules](#) and participation details for the Illinois Economics Challenge state finals have been modified. Participants must become familiar with the information prior to participation at the event.

**22. Q. Can I reconstitute my student team(s) from the online preliminary testing round prior to the on-site state competition?**

- A. Yes. Winning online preliminary teams may reconstitute up to two members prior to the on-site state competition as long as replacement students have been approved by Econ Illinois and have participated in the ONLINE! testing.

Only 4 students per team will be allowed entry to the on-site state competition. A team can continue and compete with 3 students at the on-site state finals, if it is necessary. Alternates will not be allowed entry to or participation in the on-site state finals competition.

**23. Q. What is the deadline to reconstitute any student team member(s)?**

- A. Teams wishing to reconstitute (up to the maximum number allowable – two students) must do so no later than noon April 11, 2012.

**24. Q. What if my school (or district) requires that I bring an additional chaperone (or driver) for the onsite competition?**

- A. If a chaperone or driver is required for your school to participate in the state event, you must submit a signed letter on school (or district) letterhead from your Principal (or Superintendent) stating the school policy about chaperones (or drivers) as it relates to the Illinois Economic Challenge state finals competition. Such requests will be addressed on an individual basis.

*Due to limited seating, only the registered Teacher Coach and up to four eligible students per team will be **guaranteed** entry into the Federal Reserve Bank the day of the event.*

**25. Q. Will I have to provide meals for my students the day of the state finals event?**

- A. No. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and limited support from The DeVry Foundation provide both a continental breakfast and a lunch for all Illinois Economic Challenge student participants and team coaches.

**26. Q. What are the awards for the winning team at the Illinois Economic Challenge state finals competition?**

- A. Each member of the winning team at the State Finals competition and their teacher will receive prizes valued at \$400 and a medal. Second place students and their teacher will each receive prizes valued at \$200 and a medal. Schools of first and second place teams will each receive a trophy. Every participant in the state finals will receive a certificate of participation. Each participating school in the state finals will receive a framed and matted certificate noting their participation in the ILEC state finals competition.

**27. Q. What is involved at the National Economics Challenge competition?**

- A. Information about the national competition can be found by visiting the national [Council for Economic Education](#) website. Information will be posted during the spring semester.

## **National Economics Challenge Semi-finals Information:**

- 28. Q. When and where will the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition be held?**  
A. The National Economics Challenge Semi-finals will be held as a proctored testing competition at the State Championship team's school. All participating states will have their First Place winning team compete simultaneously on a date in April 2012. Please see the *Dates and Times* page within the Illinois Economics Challenge website: [www.econchallenge.org](http://www.econchallenge.org).
- 29. Q. Is there a cost to participate in the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals?**  
A. No. There is no fee for teams to participate in the Semi-finals competition.
- 30. Q. What are the rules for the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition?**  
A. [Rules](#) are shared on the National Economics Challenge website for both the National Semi-finals and National Finals. Additional information will be available on the [National Economics Challenge](#) homepage during the spring semester.
- 31. Q. How does a team qualify to participate in the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition?**  
A. The First Place team winning the Illinois Economics Challenge State Championship will qualify to advance to the Semi-finals competition.
- 32. Q. Can I reconstitute my Illinois First Place student team from the state level of competition prior to the onsite Semi-finals competition?**  
A. Yes. The winning state team may reconstitute up to two of its members prior to the proctored Semi-finals competition. This is acceptable as long as the reconstituted team member(s) participated in the current year's online and state levels of competition. Completed and signed Student Registration Forms must also be on file for any reconstituted student.
- 33. Q. What is the deadline to reconstitute any student team member(s) for the First Place state team advancing to the National Semi-finals competition?**  
A. Teams wishing to reconstitute (up to the maximum number allowable) must do so and submit confirmation of the members attending the National Semi-finals competition no later than the day following the State Finals event.
- 34. Q. Can a team compete in the National Economics Challenge Semi-finals competition with fewer than 4 students per team?**  
A. Yes. A team can continue and compete with 3 students for the proctored onsite Semi-finals if it is necessary. However, this may place the team at a disadvantage as all team member test scores will then be included in the final total for team points.
- 35. Q. What information is available for the National Economics Challenge finals competition?**  
A. The Illinois teacher whose team qualifies for the National Semi-finals or National Finals competition will be required to certify the eligibility of their students by following the [National Economics Challenge rules](#). Additional information will be available on the [National Economics Challenge](#) homepage during the spring semester.