

***FAQ - Real Life Personal Finance (RLPF) - Classroom Edition  
for Private Schools***

- **Which students should be encouraged to take *RLPF*?**

Private school students have made a commitment to their education and their future careers. They may not be certain about the specific career desired or may not ultimately work in a career they have identified today, but they know what they do not want to do as an adult. They also have an idea of the standard of living they would like to have as an adult.

In a private school, educators work hard to prepare students for being college ready. The outcomes, in most cases, are not perfect:

- Although 100% of students of Private schools will enter college, 23% fail to graduate in six years and
- Of students who graduate, according to Fortune, 43% are underemployed, working in fields that do not require a college degree, which will impact their ability to achieve goals and pay off student loans.

These facts indicate that we as a society are failing to optimize our national human resources and our students have failed to understand the planning needed to connect their interests, majors, career selection, college selection and funding with desired standards of living.

This connection requires thinking and planning for making real-life decisions and for employment in the knowledge economy of the 21st century.

If your district wants to increase your college graduation results, your students should be encouraged to take ***RLPF***.

- **Why select *RLPF* for Personal Finance?**

Many districts offer Personal Finance courses. The odds are excellent that the course you are offering may have no impact on long-term outcomes. Please review the 2009 research [https://www.afcpe.org/assets/pdf/lewis\\_mandell\\_linda\\_schmid\\_klein.pdf](https://www.afcpe.org/assets/pdf/lewis_mandell_linda_schmid_klein.pdf) on the Impact of Personal Financial Literacy on Subsequent Financial Behavior.

***RLPF*** is designed from a Future perspective with vision essays, life plans, career planning and the thinking required to achieve desired outcomes.

If achieving district outcomes is important, ***RLPF*** should be the personal finance course selected.

- **How is *RLPF* different from other financial literacy courses?**

There are six reasons for selecting *RLPF*:

- 1) *RLPF* is outcome driven. In the pilot course, ***Game of Real Life***, conducted the summers of 2007 to 2012 for underserved tenth-grade students, research of the first 358 students showed 100% of the ***Game*** graduates completed high school and 98% entered college. In a subsequent study of 170+ students, 91.7% completed college in 6 years. We site these results because even a private school would be excited if more than 90% of their students graduate from college.
- 2) *RLPF* is published by award-winning financial professionals with decades of experience in addressing real-life financial problems. The course is about making real-life decisions.
- 3) *RLPF* is a blended online, one-semester social studies course, accessible for students who are hearing and visually impaired. The course is challenging with real-life examples that demand thinking and a deep understanding of finance, career choices, postsecondary education planning. Additionally, students are challenged to not memorize answers but to critically think, problem-solve, and communicate with family and friends about what they learn.
- 4) Once students start to think, and not look for rote answers in a text, they will value thinking and this challenging course. As they start to apply what they are learning, they will realize the power of the knowledge and the advantages they have by learning about real life now.
- 5) *RLPF* is updated annually to remain relevant and motivational. This saves students hundreds of hours of additional work trying to identify objective, updated reference material.
- 6) The learning management system (LMS) is Canvas, rated by *PC Magazine* as the best educational LMS on the market today.

- **How does *RLPF* support instructors?**

With more than thirty years of professional practice, D&A authors are able to answer instructor questions. Instructors are encouraged to connect with D&A. Instructors may reach D&A by email or phone to discuss any challenges they may face.

To prepare for the course, instructors are encouraged to:

- Attend the summer professional development *Personal Finance Educators Conference*.
- Study the *Teacher's Guide*. Watch all videos, take notes and implement the class management tools, the First Five Days.

- Have students take *Prologue - Getting Started* assessments to provide the instructors with foundation scores for measuring their course progress.

- **Does *RLPF* function as a course or as a reference for materials?**

Instructors should offer *RLPF* as a course with a **Thinking Instructional Methodology (TIM)**, beginning with the *Prologue - Getting Started*. Using TIM, the student works independently and the instructor challenges the student with questions, observes the student's process of thinking, provides personal relevancy and does not lecture. The financial, career and PSE material serves as a foundation for the brain development, cause and effect thinking, exercises. Each unit builds on prior understanding, challenging the student to create a vision for their future and a ten-year life plan.

If instructors want to create their own courses, *RLPF* is an excellent source of objective reference material.

- **Is the community engage in the course?**

D&A works closely with Financial Mentors of America, a Houston based non-profit, to offer schools an opportunity to engage community leaders as members of career explorer panels. FMA can help the district organize, recruit and train volunteers.

Since only a few years will pass and the student will be employed, D&A believes community engagement benefits the student and the community.

- **How does a school order *RLPF*?**

Contact Ken Decker, President of Decker & Associates, Inc., the publisher. Discuss your licensing needs and you will receive an invoice. Once payment is received with the email of the student, a student blended instructor/student license is emailed.

**Contact**

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