



Decker & Associates, Inc.
Decker Consulting
10655 Memorial Dr.
Houston, Texas 77024-5519
Tel (713) 927-9300
Email: ken@deckerusa.com

***FAQ - Real Life Personal Finance (RLPF) - Classroom Version
for Texas Public & Open Charter Schools***

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

Helping students graduate career and college ready is no easy task. Many students enter high school years behind in academic knowledge, vocabulary and life experiences. Because of **D&A's** innovative **Thinking Instructional Methodology (TIM)** and the real-life subject matter presented, students have an opportunity to experience the future and make a decision to take responsibility for their future through the Real Life Curriculum.

By high school, many students seek real life. Although they may not be certain about the specific career desired, almost every student knows what they do not want to do as an adult. They also know the standard of living they would like to have as an adult.

Additionally, while educators work hard to prepare students for being career and college ready, the results are not stellar:

- Of students who enter college, 44% 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 required to connect their interests, majors, career selection, college selection and funding with desired standards of living.

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

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

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

Personal Finances courses have been offered in Texas under various PEIMS - Money Smart, Dollars & Cents and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System. Based on 2009 research, the odds are excellent that these courses have had no impact on long-term outcomes. Please review research on the Impact of Personal Financial Literacy on Subsequent Financial Behavior -

https://www.afcpe.org/assets/pdf/lewis_mandell_linda_schmid_klein.pdf

RLPF has been designed from a Future perspective with vision essays, life plans, career planning, thinking and problem-solving required of students so they may achieve their desired outcomes.

If achieving district and student outcomes are 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.
- 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, that meets 100% of the TEA TEKS and 100% of the ELPS. It is also 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 are used to having to think, and not looking for rote answers in a text, they will want to take this challenging course. As they apply what they are learning, they will realize the power of the knowledge and the advantage they have by learning this 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?**

No one knows everything in real-life. With more than thirty years of professional practice, D&A authors are constantly learning new approaches to solving problems.

Anytime an instructor has a question regarding content, the instructor is encouraged to connect with D&A. Additionally, the instructor is encouraged to use the real-life

materials to create his or her own ten-year plan for the future. Instructors may reach us 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 *Instructor'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.

If instructors fail to follow these three preparations, or if they elect to deliver a traditional modeled behavior instructional methodology, students will still benefit from the deep financial education they have received.

- **Is the community engaged 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.

- **What is the course PEIMS and TEK coverage?**

RLPF is approved in Texas as PEIMS 03380082. It meets 100% of the Texas TEKS and 100% of the ELPS and provides a ½ credit for high school social studies. In the future, it is expected to be mandated by the Texas legislature for graduation.

- **How does a district 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

Kenneth L Decker, CPA, CFP

Email: ken@deckerusa.com

Phone: 713-927-9300

www.deckerusa.com