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**FAQ - Real Life Personal Finance (RLPF) - Independent 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.

A private school may be proud that it offers students opportunities for independent study. Offer your students an opportunity to select a course that will save them money and definitely change their perspective on the next ten years of their lives.

How may it change their perspectives? Private school educators prepare students for being college ready. The outcomes, in most cases, are not perfect:

- Although 100% of students of Private schools may enter college, 23% will fail to graduate in six years and
- Of students who graduate, according to Fortune, 43% are underemployed which will impact their ability to achieve goals and pay off student loans. One of the factors contributing to underemployment is that the new graduates are not prepared to problem-solve in a work environment and add value to the employer. They may be excellent at taking orders but not thinking creatively and working with diverse teams of individuals.

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 funding with desired standards of living and employer expectations..

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

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

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

Many schools offer Personal Finance courses. The odds are excellent that the course you may be offering will have no impact on long-term outcomes. Please review the 2009

research 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 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.
- 2) **RLPF** is published by award-winning financial professionals with decades of experience in addressing real-life financial problems. The course trains students on how to think and make real-life decisions.
- 3) **RLPF** is a blended online, one-semester social studies course. 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 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 faculty advisors?**

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

To prepare for the course, educators 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.

- **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.

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