

7 Tips to Choosing Effective Financial Literacy Curriculum

Record debt, skyrocketing foreclosures and a large number of people suffering from financial stress – many of the problems many people face today could have been avoided if they had received a practical financial education.

In today's age, it is more important than ever that we provide youth with the knowledge they need to make it in the financial real world. Implementing a practical financial literacy course can make a difference that lasts a lifetime. **But, how do you choose the financial literacy curriculum that students will actually implement?** That is the question that will be answered in this article.

Focus groups have shown that when students receive subpar financial literacy training they report being bored, turned-off, confused and lack the desire to learn more about money matters. The instructors had good intentions when they begin implementing the financial education course; unfortunately for some, the financial lesson plans had the opposite effect.

To ensure your financial education class makes a lasting difference in students lives it is important you choose a financial literacy curriculum that are designed to keep the students engaged and motivated to learn more. Below are seven tips to choosing effective financial literacy lesson plans that will help your students to gain the financial knowledge needed to be successful.

- 1) Review the Curriculum Designers Background.** The average financial literacy curriculum is written by people that lack real world money and business experience. Make sure the financial education lesson plans you choose have been designed by a team of experienced professionals. Look for curriculum that is developed by a team of financially successful entrepreneurs and teachers that have a track record of curriculum development experience. Finding a curriculum that combines top teachers with business leaders will put you immediately on the right track.
- 2) Find Curriculum that Motivates & Educates.** Having reviewed hundreds of financial literacy lesson plans and talked to thousands of youth many of them have been turned off 'learning about money'. Many students have complained about past financial literacy classes being boring and confusing. A well designed financial literacy curriculum, taught properly, can be a rewarding and entertaining experience. A good test is to review the curriculum late at night and see if it passes the snooze test.
- 3) Find Lesson Plans that Grow with Students.** In a perfect world financial lessons would be taught over time and your students would build their money skills over time. Since this is a luxury most educators will not receive, it is important to choose curriculum that builds on the prior lessons and covers the key principles that make up the foundation knowledge of their education.





- 4) **Lesson Plans Cover the Mental Game of Money.** Talk to any financially successful person out there and the majority will agree that the mental game of money serves as a foundation for our financial decisions. It is also well documented that the average person makes most of their financial decisions because of emotional responses, not logic. That is why it is critical that the financial literacy curriculum you choose covers the mental game of money.
- 5) **Financial Success Training Curriculum.** The ultimate goal of financial literacy lesson plans is to help our youth reach the level of financial success they desire. Implementing curriculum that focused on providing real world money lessons will not only keep students interested but will also put them on track to achieving financial security.
- 6) **Practical Education *before* Theory Based Memorization.** Although we agree that people should know important financial theories, it is important to find curriculum that focuses on practical financial matters your students will use in the real world before getting into advanced theories. Considering the fact that over 40 million Americans do not have bank accounts, locate curriculum that walks students step-by-step through basic account structure and includes activities that helps to build their financial foundation.

7) **Teach with Entertaining & Engaging Curriculum.** By the time a student graduates high school many have sat through more than 10,000 classes. With the limited time the subject of financial literacy receives it is vitally important we stand out from the 10,000 other lectures. Choose curriculum that engages the students with activities, multi-media, celebrities, movement, props and other tools to help our students internalize financial literacy lesson plans so they benefit from this knowledge throughout their life.

Maximize the effectiveness of your time and financial literacy class by getting financial literacy curriculum designed to get students excited to learn about money. The confidence that a practical financial education can bring to students will have long-term positive benefits that affect many area of your student's life.

About Us:

The Financial Educator's Council is dedicated to increasing youth financial literacy through a variety of products & services that provide a practical financial education. Our mission is to empower today's youth with the financial literacy knowledge they need to live the American Dream. www.FinancialEducatorsCouncil.org

The Financial Educators Council's Curriculum is designed to meet educational standards while providing 'real world' money skills that make a true difference in student's lives. Your participants will be educated and entertained as they gain a 21st century financial education.

