

DRAFT DC Financial Literacy Standards

**District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)
DRAFT Financial Literacy Standards
Grades 9-12**

Updated: November 2023

NOTE: These draft standards are based on the [2021 National Standards for Personal Finance Education](#), developed by the Council for Economic Education and Jump\$tart. These standards are further informed by feedback received from DC teachers, students, members of the public and financial literacy experts collected during stakeholder engagement conducted by OSSE in summer/fall 2023.

EARNING INCOME		
STANDARD #	STANDARD	DRIVING QUESTION(S)
Earning Income-1	Analyze the legal, historical and societal factors that impact access of different individuals to high wage-earning jobs (e.g., discrimination, access to resources, etc.).	1. What are the legal, economic, historical and societal factors that impact access to high wage-earning jobs?
Earning Income-2	Analyze diverse employment types, including but not limited to, part-time, full-time, seasonal, hourly, commission-based, contracted, in person and remote, and the risks and benefits of each.	1. What are the risks and benefits of different types of employment? 2. What is the difference between an employee and a contractor? 3. To what extent should independent contractor employees be entitled to specific rights and benefits to strike a balance between flexibility and worker protection?
Earning Income-3	Analyze the historical development of government involvement in social welfare and the concept of universal rights to benefits, including policies such as universal income, social security, health care, minimum wage and the national poverty line.	1. What are the benefits to which individuals should have a universal right? 2. What benefits are typical for different careers in the United States and how, if at all, do you believe this should change? 3. How might benefits such as health insurance impact productivity of workforce?

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Earning Income-4	Identify unique opportunities and programs available in Washington, DC that provide financial support for higher education and career advancement, considering scholarships, grants, apprenticeships, and other avenues for educational and professional growth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What financial opportunities and pathways are available for individuals in Washington, DC to pursue higher education and advance their career? 2. What steps can individuals take to leverage these opportunities?
Earning Income-5	Compare wages earned across different careers and analyze the different factors that impact wages – including education, race, gender, level of risk to personal safety and well being and historical conceptions of job function.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How have the histories of racial and gender discrimination impacted wage differences? 2. What factors determine wages across career sectors? 3. How should the government respond, if at all, to address the gender and racial wealth gap? 4. To what extent can individuals influence wages (e.g., salary negotiation)?
Earning Income-6	Compare various compensation models for jobs or careers, such as wages, salaries, commissions, tips, or bonuses and assess their contributions to employee benefits like health insurance, retirement savings plans and education reimbursement program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the benefits and disadvantages of different compensation models? 2. Why do employers provide benefits beyond compensation? 3. What are the benefits and risks associated with requiring all employers to provide benefits such as healthcare, maternity leave, or sick leave?
Earning Income-7	Analyze the influence of non-cash incentives, including good working conditions, flexible work hours, telecommuting privileges and career advancement potential, in addition to wages and paid benefits, on employee choices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do different incentives impact employee choices?
Earning Income-8	Assess the impact of the ability and opportunity to incur the costs of additional training and education on future earning potential.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should individuals consider the costs and benefits of investing in additional training or education? 2. What are the different returns on investment for different post-secondary education options?
Earning Income-9	Analyze the influence of technology, regional industry dynamics, policy changes and evolving economic conditions on labor conditions and career opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What factors shape the economic realities of a geographic region?

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Earning Income-10	Use data to determine the cost of living in different geographic areas and analyze how economic and labor market conditions can affect income, career opportunities and employment status.	1. To what extent can economic, political and geographic conditions affect an individual’s career opportunities and income?
Earning Income-11	Evaluate the different forms and functions of taxation including payroll taxes, income taxes, property taxes and sales taxes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the purpose of taxation? 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of different models of taxation? 3. What factors should be considered when evaluating a taxation model’s effectiveness and fairness? 4. What taxation models are currently in place in the United States for payroll, property, sales, and overall income taxes? 5. What benefits accrue to you and society through taxation?
Earning Income-12	Analyze a variety of tools and services that are relevant to the preparation of personal and business taxes and understand how and when to complete taxes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What information would a person need to complete their taxes? 2. What are the advantages and costs of different tools and services for filing individual taxes (e.g., Internal Revenue Service free filing, commercial preparation services, accountant)?
Earning Income-13	Compare the effect of different tax deductions and tax credits on income tax liability.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can tax deductions and credits impact income tax liability? 2. Should tax deductions be a vehicle for economic policy? If so, how can they most effectively be leveraged to promote different economic policies?
Earning Income-14	Evaluate the risks and benefits of owning and starting a business, including businesses in the informal economy.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the risks and benefits to starting a business? 2. Do those risks and benefits differ in the formal and informal economy?
Earning Income-15	Assess sources of information available to individuals or groups starting an independent business and identify where to access assistance and guidance.	1. If individuals want to start a business, what steps should they take?
Earning Income-16	Assess information regarding income opportunities and develop skills to identify signs and risks associated with predatory financial schemes (e.g., multi-level marketing schemes, pyramid schemes).	1. How can individuals assess income opportunities effectively to make informed financial decisions?

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SPENDING		
STANDARD #	STANDARD	DRIVING QUESTION(S)
Spending-1	Assess the impact of unexpected expenses (e.g., medical emergencies, layoffs, car accidents) and develop effective strategies for managing these expenses.	1. How can unforeseen circumstances impact an individual's ability to meet financial goals?
Spending-2	Analyze how management of financial resources changes at different income and wealth levels, considering budgeting, savings and expenditures.	1. How do income and wealth impact the ability to spend money and make financial decisions?
Spending-3	Assess factors influencing individual and community values and attitudes towards spending, including the role of marketing, community, personal lived experiences and psychology.	1. How can individuals foster empathy and non-judgmental understanding around diverse perspectives of spending? 2. What factors influence one's individual values and attitudes toward spending?
Spending-4	Analyze information about financial relief agencies and resources in the Washington, DC area and understand their value.	1. What local financial relief agencies and resources are available to individuals and families in Washington, DC? 2. How can individuals access those agencies and resources?
Spending-5	Evaluate the impact of historical, political, economic and geographic factors on access to goods and services and the impact of these factors on prices of goods and services (e.g., location of groceries stores, access to medical care, supply and demand).	1. What factors contribute to variations in the prices of goods across different geographical regions?
Spending-6	Evaluate the risks and benefits of regulating the pricing and accessibility of essential goods and services by examining the merits and drawbacks of implementing price floors, price ceilings, or formula-based pricing strategies.	1. What are the consequences of government set price-setting for various goods and services?

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Spending-7	Analyze the regulation of monopolies and oligopolies, exploring the measures taken to ensure fair competition, consumer protection, and price stability in the marketplace.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do monopolies impact the price of a good or service? 2. Under what circumstances does government regulation of monopolies help or hinder the economy?
Spending-8	Analyze the strengths and limitations of a budget in helping people prioritize and adjust their allocation of income to necessary and desired spending, saving and philanthropy.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does an individual use a budget? 2. How can the creation of a budget assist individuals in reaching their financial goals? 3. What are the limits of budgeting to help individuals meet financial goals?
Spending-9	Create a budget based on individual inputs, constraints and goals and adjust the budget based on changing individual inputs, constraints and goals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does an individual need to consider when creating a budget? 2. How do you create a budget?
Spending-10	Identify local and federal resources and programs that help individuals achieve their financial goals, beyond budgeting, such as public benefits, loans and other resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can different resources and programs help individuals achieve their financial goals? 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of government-provided supports for helping individuals meet financial goals? 3. How can individuals access these resources?
Spending-11	Analyze various factors that impact consumer decisions, including the availability of goods and services, marketing strategies, pricing, inflation, societal norms, individual preferences, and impacts on the environment, society and economy.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What information impacts consumer decision making? 2. How can consumers make informed decisions?
Spending-12	Assess sources of information to gauge the quality of goods and services when making purchasing decisions and distinguish between sponsored advertisements and genuinely objective analyses.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps should an individual take to conduct due diligence before buying a good or service?
Spending-13	Analyze factors influencing housing decisions and housing accessibility, such as individual preferences, discriminatory practices, costs, budgets and housing availability and evaluate the consequences of various choices on personal satisfaction and financial well-being.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do historical factors impact housing accessibility? 2. What factors shape housing decisions and access to housing? 3. How do income, debt, interest rates and other factors impact individual choices about housing affordability?

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Spending-14	Analyze the legal protections for homeowners and renters, including safeguards and sources of assistance specific to Washington, D.C.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What legal protections for homeowners exist, and why are protections needed in the housing market?2. What legal protections for renters exist, and why are protections needed in the housing market?
Spending-15	Analyze the role and efficacy of federal and state laws, regulations, and consumer protection agencies (e.g., the Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Affairs offices, including the DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau) designed to help individuals avoid unsafe products, unfair practices and marketplace fraud.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What should be the government's role in ensuring consumer safety and fairness?2. How can individuals access these services and protections?

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SAVING		
STANDARD #	STANDARD	DRIVING QUESTION(S)
Saving-1	Analyze the influence of generational wealth (presence or absence of) on personal savings, examining the ways in which inherited assets, financial education and direct gifts from family contribute to wealth accumulation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does generational and familial wealth impact savings? 2. What are the factors that influence generational and familial wealth?
Saving-2	Analyze the consequences of political decisions, such as changes in retirement age, pension supports and social security policies, on an individual's retirement planning.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do political decisions impact individuals' ability to save for retirement? 2. What is the optimal role of government in providing benefits, such as student loan forgiveness, guarantee retirement income or provide retirement insurance, to help individuals in retirement?
Saving-3	Evaluate the role and efficacy of government policies in addressing historical disparities in wealth accumulation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should government policies support building generational wealth for groups that have historically been denied the ability to save? 2. Are specific government policies effective in building generational wealth in groups that have historically been denied the ability save?
Saving-4	Compare the benefits and drawbacks of different types of savings accounts, such as regular savings, high-yield savings accounts, money market accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs), college savings accounts, health savings accounts and retirement savings accounts (401(k)s, 403(b)s) that differ in minimum deposits, rates and deposit insurance coverage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can individuals make an informed decision about short- and long-term saving? 2. What steps should individuals take to begin short- and long-term saving.
Saving-5	Analyze the intricacies and risks of mobile payment accounts, stock trading applications and cryptocurrency accounts that are not federally insured.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can individuals make informed decisions to learn about and mitigate any known or likely financial risks in the rapidly advancing digital era?
Saving-6	Analyze the impact of inflation and deflation on the value of savings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do inflation and deflation affect the real value of savings? 2. What steps can an individual take to safeguard and grow their savings in the current economic conditions?

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Saving-7	Evaluate the role of government agencies such as the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the National Credit Union Administration, along with their counterparts in state government in supervising and regulating financial institutions.	1. What is the impact of regulatory measures on the stability and security of the financial system?
Saving-8	Assess the individual and societal implications of tax policies that promote savings by allowing individuals to save pretax earnings or by providing tax advantages on interest earned.	1. How do tax policies influence people's motivation and ability to save? 2. What is the efficacy of different policies that encourage saving? Does this differ at an individual or societal level?

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INVESTING		
STANDARD #	STANDARD	DRIVING QUESTION(S)
Investing-1	Examine the diverse incentives that drive companies to issue and sell stock and motivate individuals to invest.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is investing? 2. How does an individual begin investing? 3. Why do companies issue stock? 4. What are the incentives for individuals and institutions to invest?
Investing-2	Evaluate the ethical dimensions of investment choices, considering the environmental, social and governance factors related to specific industries or companies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent should ethical considerations be a factor in individual investment choices and strategies?
Investing-3	Analyze barriers to saving for retirement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do people find it hard to save for retirement?
Investing-4	Compare nominal annual rates of return over time on different types of investments (e.g., stocks, bonds, collectibles, real estate) including cash flows and price changes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does an individual make money investing in stocks? 2. How does an individual make money investing in bonds? 3. How does an individual make money investing in collectibles? 4. How does an individual make money investing in real estate?
Earned Income-1	Analyze interest, dividends and capital appreciation (gains), and identify examples of passive income derived from financial investments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can individuals effectively manage and utilize financial investments for financial growth?
Investing-5	Analyze diversification and asset allocation decisions by considering risk tolerance, goals and investing time horizon.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What methods can be used to achieve a balanced and effective investment portfolio?
Investing-6	Analyze how the expenses of buying, selling and holding financial assets, as well as different tax rules, impact the rate of return from different investments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can individuals leverage their knowledge of different expenses associated with different investment vehicles to make choices that support their financial goals?
Earned Income-2	Analyze the differences between different kinds of retirement income, including Social Security, employer-sponsored retirement plans, personal investments and continued employment earnings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can individuals make informed decisions to secure a financially stable retirement?

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Investing-7	Analyze the trade-offs involved in riskier assets with the potential for higher rates of return and identify scenarios where this investment strategy is advantageous and scenarios where it carries significant risk.	1. What risk factors should individuals consider when formulating their investing strategies?
Investing-8	Assess the extent to which federal regulation of financial markets ensures that investors have access to accurate information about potential investments and are protected from fraud.	1. How, and to what extent, does federal regulation contribute to investor confidence?
Investing-9	Evaluate criteria for selecting financial professionals for investment advice include licensing, certifications, education, experience and cost.	1. What factors should individuals consider when hiring a financial professional? 2. How does an individual hire a financial professional? 3. Analyze the benefits and drawbacks of hiring a financial professional versus making financial decisions on your own?

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CREDIT		
STANDARD #	STANDARD	DRIVING QUESTION(S)
Credit-1	Analyze the local and national historical disparities in access to credit based on factors such as race, gender and socioeconomic background, and assess the ongoing consequences of these disparities on economic equality and financial opportunities.	1. How has historical access to credit shaped contemporary financial disparities?
Credit-2	Evaluate the cost of credit using the Annual Percentage Rate (APR), Effective Annual Rate (EAR) or the actual rate to be paid based on the period of compounding and other terms in the contract for a credit card or loan for purchases.	1. What factors should individuals consider when applying for a credit card? 2. What is the Effective Annual Rate (EAR) on the credit cards or other loans being considered?
Credit-3	Evaluate the risks and benefits of different mortgage payment plans depending on the amount borrowed, the repayment period and the interest rate, which can be fixed or adjustable.	1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of different mortgage payment plans? 2. How does an individual apply for a mortgage?
Credit-4	Compare different methods of financing post-secondary education including federal loans, private loans, opportunities for loan forgiveness, grants, scholarships and savings.	1. What factors should individuals consider when financing post-secondary education? 2. How does an individual learn about and apply for different methods of financial post-secondary education (e.g., federal loans, private loans, grants, scholarships)?
Credit-5	Evaluate the impact of down payments and interest rates on the amount needed to borrow and pay overtime.	1. How do down payments influence the amount an individual needs to borrow?
Credit-6	Analyze the factors that lenders use to determine the creditworthiness of potential borrowers including credit reports compiled by credit bureaus.	1. What are the ways that lenders determine creditworthiness?
Credit-7	Analyze different factors that impact your credit score and analyze different ways individuals can improve their credit.	1. What factors impact credit scores and how can individuals improve their credit scores? 2. Evaluate different ways to improve your credit, including the risks of “credit repair services.”

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Credit-8	Assess different methods of debt management assistance.	1. How can individuals choose the most suitable approach to effectively manage their debt?
Credit-9	Analyze the reasons for and the implications of declaring bankruptcy.	1. Why do individuals and businesses declare bankruptcy? 2. What are the repercussions of declaring bankruptcy?
Credit-10	Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of consumer credit protection laws that govern disclosure of credit terms, discrimination in borrowing and debt collection practices.	1. How effective are consumer credit protection laws in safeguarding consumers' financial rights and interests?
Credit-11	Analyze the reasons for and the risks of using financial services such as payday loans, check cashing services, pawnshops and instant tax refunds which provide access to credit at relatively high cost.	1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of financial services such as payday loans, check cashing services, pawnshops and instant tax refunds that offer access to credit?

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MANAGING RISK		
STANDARD #	STANDARD	DRIVING QUESTION(S)
Managing Risk-1	Compare the advantages, disadvantages, and implications of guaranteed access to insurance, examining the roles of private insurance and government insurance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do individuals access insurance? 2. What are the benefits and risks of insurance provided by the government, as compared to insurance provided by private companies? 3. To what extent should some or all forms of insurance be guaranteed? To what extent should some or all forms of insurance be dependent on employment?
Managing Risk-2	Assess the factors that impact the decision and ability to buy insurance in a specific category (health, homeowners, renters, vehicle, life, long term care, disability), including risk exposure, the price of insurance coverage and individual characteristics such as risk attitudes, age, occupation, lifestyle and financial profile.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What factors do individuals consider when deciding between insurance options for insurance in the selected category (health, home, renters, vehicle, life, long term care, disability)?
Managing Risk-3	Assess why some types of insurance coverage are mandatory.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why are certain kinds of insurance coverage mandated by law? 2. What societal costs are incurred when individuals do not have insurance?
Managing Risk-4	Analyze the factors that influence insurance premiums including copayments and deductibles and determine the costs and benefits of plans with different costs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do different factors impact insurance premiums?
Managing Risk-5	Compare the costs, benefits, and risks of different health insurance plans, including the extent to which health insurance covers preventative care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the risks and benefits of different insurance plans? 2. How does an individual sign up for a health insurance plan?
Managing Risk-6	Evaluate the costs and benefits of disability insurance for replacing income lost when a person is unable to earn their regular income due to injury or illness.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the motivations and considerations that lead individuals to obtain disability insurance? 2. How does an individual access disability insurance?
Managing Risk-7	Compare different auto, homeowner's, and renter's insurance reimbursements to policyholders for financial losses to their covered property and the costs of legal liability for their damages to other people or property.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do insurance policies differ in terms of reimbursements for financial losses and coverage of legal liability for damages to others? 2. How does an individual file an insurance claim?

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Managing Risk-8	Assess the reasons why an individual would have life insurance that provides funds for beneficiaries in the event of an insured person's death or disability.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the motivations and considerations that lead individuals to obtain life insurance?2. How does an individual obtain life insurance?
Managing Risk-9	Analyze insurance fraud as a crime encompassing illegal actions by the buyer (e.g., falsified claims) or seller (e.g., representing non-existent companies) of an insurance contract.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does insurance fraud manifest and what are the consequences of insurance fraud?
Managing Risk-10	Assess ways to secure online transactions safeguard personal documents that can make consumers vulnerable to privacy infringement, identity theft, and fraud.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What strategies can be implemented to protect personal documents and the security of online transactions?
Managing Risk-11	Evaluate the utility of extended warranties and service contracts on different kinds of purchases.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What factors should consumers consider when deciding whether to invest in extended warranties and service contracts?