

How to Evaluate a Basic Personal Finance Curriculum

Based on the *National Best Practices Guidelines for Personal Finance Education Materials* developed by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

This provides a useful checklist to help educators evaluate this type of curriculum. Money Savvy Kids™ Basic Personal Finance Curriculum meets all of these criteria.

Important Criteria

#1 Objectivity

Materials should:

- be objective in tone and content
- not deceive, mislead or promote a specific brand or provider
- identify their content creator and list contact information
- recommend additional, objective sources of information

#2 Alignment with Standards

Materials should:

- reinforce multiple subject areas (for example, language arts, math and social studies)
- correlate with individual state standards for economics and personal finance
- correlate to one or more of the national standards in personal finance developed by Jump\$tart (www.jumpstart.org)

#3 Good Design

Materials should:

- use plain language
- clearly define technical terms, abbreviations and acronyms
- require little additional teacher preparation
- include student learning objectives and assessment tools, background information, lesson plans, and activities that stimulate student participation
- relate to contemporary student interests
- have lesson plans and activities that address a variety of learning styles (for example, visual, auditory, kinesthetic and group interaction)
- be a multi-grade program with a consistent teaching approach and material presentation

#4 Assessment

Materials should:

- be tested before publication under conditions that replicate target settings and audiences
- incorporate feedback from teachers and learners
- include assessment tools, such as pre & post tests, which measure both student knowledge as well as behavioral change as a result of teaching and learning