

FINANCIAL LITERACY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR SY2009-2010!

High Schools nationwide are invited to register for the Financial Literacy Certification Program, established in 2003, to support the instruction of personal finance. High schools teaching personal finance or financial planning as a unit or course should register for this program and benefit from the w!se Financial Literacy Certification Test. The test evaluates students' knowledge of budgeting, money, interest, credit, banking, insurance, investing, regulatory agencies, housing, financial and retirement planning, and certifies their ability to manage their own finances. The test can be administered in the fall and/or in the spring. The program has a seven year history and has reached over 85,000 students nationally. In recognition of the program's success, w!se was awarded the coveted U.S. Treasury John H. Sherman Award for Excellence in Financial Education in 2007.

Goals: The goals of the Financial Literacy Certification Program are to:

- Increase the number of young people who are financially literate.
- Measure the knowledge of personal finance among young people.
- Recognize schools and teachers that graduate a high percentage of financially literate students

Services: When high schools participate in the award winning **Financial Literacy Certification Program**, they are provided:

- **Materials:** A Teacher's Guide with a detailed curriculum outline of topics to be covered as part of personal finance instruction, a program calendar, a directory of websites, and a vocabulary list along with recommended lesson plan material are provided.
- **The w!se Financial Literacy Certification Test (FLCT):** Participating schools administer The w!se Financial Literacy Certification Test and survey to measure students' knowledge of personal finance. Students who pass this national test become Certified Financially Literate indicating that he/she has met current national standards for knowledge of personal finance. Pre-testing is available to a limited number of schools. Tests are newly developed each term and are available in paper or online.
- **Psychometric Reporting & Analysis:** Tests are administered by teachers and scored by w!se. Scores are reported to schools with an analysis of performance outcomes. Once a year, an aggregate psychometric report providing an analysis of results and the impact of instruction on student behavior. School specific information is reported only to the participating school.
- **Professional Development and Annual Conference:** Teachers are invited to the widely attended MoneyPOWER Conference & Resources Fair. Orientations are also provided each year.
- **Website Support:** our website, www.moneypower.org provides participating schools with an entry code to access practice tests and a support system for students to help them prepare for the FLCT. Teachers can provide interim benchmark testing while teaching each topic and monitoring student progress
- **Blue Star Distinction:** Participating schools providing personal finance instruction to the majority of their students on a grade level and having 75% or more of these students passing the FLCT earn the distinction of being a Blue Star School.
- **Recognition and Awards:** **Blue Star Schools** receive a banner. Teachers in whose class 90% of students pass the Test become **Gold Star Teachers** and receive a certificate. Students who pass the Certification Test become **Certified Financially Literate** and receive an electronic certificate.

FAQ

- **How much time does it take to teach all the topics?** The program can be used to support a half or full year course. We recommend a minimum of 20-30 hours of personal finance instruction over 7 to 8 weeks.
- **How often can the test be administered?** The test can be administered with school-based proctors in the fall and/or in the spring in the classroom or in a common space in the school.
- **When should the test be administered?** w!se establishes the test schedule in advance based on district and state calendars.
- **Who receives the test results?** Scores are sent to the contact person at the school and are otherwise kept confidential
- **Which students should take the test?** The program is suitable for students in all high school grades; it is used most frequently in 11th and 12th grade classes

For more information contact David Anderson at danderson@wise-ny.org or 212-421-2700.

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