About Invest in What’s Next

Invest in What’s Next: Life After High School (www.investinwhatsnext.org) is a FREE online, educational mini-course developed by the Federal Reserve Banks of Richmond and San Francisco. The goal of the course is to help students develop a post-secondary plan while learning and applying economics and personal finance concepts. The course has been designed with several implementation options for a classroom setting so that teachers can find the best fit and tailor their level of involvement.

Implementation Options

1. **Curriculum Unit:** The course can be used as a 3-lesson curriculum unit using either a flipped classroom model or computer lab rotation.

   **Example:** Integrate the course into a flipped classroom. Assign each lesson as homework in advance of related classroom activities and discussion the following day.
   - Following Lesson 1, use “Invest in Yourself” from the St. Louis Fed’s It’s Your Paycheck! curriculum to help students further explore how educational attainment relates to earnings and unemployment. Then, break students into small groups to discuss their Lesson 1 research and the choices they made.
   - After Lesson 2, call on students to give brief presentations of their plan to the rest of the class, discussing how they weighed the costs and benefits. Tell all students to be prepared to ask their peers questions.
   - Upon completion of Lesson 3, have students create a new plan using the Plan Builder and plan comparison tools and review the feedback provided. Ask the students to write a paragraph explaining which plan they feel is their best option and explain why.

2. **Extension Activity:** The course can be assigned as homework or extra credit to reinforce or extend traditional classroom instruction.

   **Example:** Continue to provide typical classroom instruction on related content, such as earning income. Toward the end of a relevant class period, introduce the course to students by demoing the beginning of Lesson 1 through the “Community of Interests” exercise. Then, assign each lesson as homework in accordance with your curriculum pacing. Check students’ progress by reviewing their knowledge check summaries, completed research forms, or post-secondary Plans.

3. **A La Carte Exercises:** Individual components of the course (videos, data visuals, etc.) can be used as instructional tools to achieve specific learning objectives.

   **Example:** Integrate a course exercise to teach related content, such as the relationship between educational attainment and earning potential. Sign into the course and project the Lesson 1 “Sorting My Possibilities” scatterplot page in the classroom. Ask students about their interests and sort the jobs by those interest categories. Then, click “Finished Exploring” to show all jobs. Spend time discussing the following questions: What general relationship do you see between education and pay? What other benefits of higher education does this chart show? Does higher education guarantee you higher pay? What other factors may determine your pay?