

Mentor and Counselor Implementation Guide

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 mentors and counselors so that they can find the best fit and tailor their level of involvement.

Implementation Options

- 1 Side-by-Side:** The course can be used by a mentor or counselor one-on-one with a student in a journey that builds a positive relationship.

Example: Complete the course with a student to enhance discussions about future career, education and lifestyle goals.

- In Lesson 1, focus discussions on exploring the student's interests and lifestyle goals. Jointly explore career and education options and provide the student with guidance that aligns with their goals.
- During Lesson 2, watch the "Expense Essentials and Funding Fundamentals" video together and discuss the importance of applying for grants and scholarships and estimating the net price for schools.
- After the student has taken the Preparation Assessment in Lesson 3, review the student's results, discuss the importance of academic readiness, soft skills and knowing options when planning for the future. Then, develop a checklist of action items based on the student's results.

- 2 Independent with Coaching:** The mentor or counselor acts as a coach in a supporting role for students who complete the course independently.

Example: Introduce the course to a student and ask them to complete Lesson 1. After the student has completed Lesson 1, discuss the student's "Personalized Research Form" focusing on how well the schools the student researched align with their education and career goals. Consider using this time to also check the accuracy of school expenses entered on the student's research form prior to assigning Lesson 2.

- 3 Floating Facilitation:** The facilitator serves as a resource to answer questions about the course in a career center or community center.

Example: Introduce the course to a student visiting the career center. As the student works through a lesson on a computer or tablet, check in with the student periodically to provide assistance. In addition, connect the course to other career center offerings, including resources to help the student research colleges and careers, apply for grants and scholarships, consider student loans, and budget for the future.