

# PFL Academy Curriculum Standards Reference

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of all 15 financial literacy standards covered in the PFL Academy curriculum, including chapter descriptions, learning objectives, and skill builders. Use this reference to plan your financial literacy curriculum and identify which content best aligns with your educational goals.

**Complete Curriculum Coverage:** PFL Academy's curriculum aligns with standards from the Council for Economic Education (CEE), Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, and state financial literacy requirements. Each standard includes multiple chapters with both Day 1 content exploration and Day 2 learning lab activities.

## 1 Income & Careers

This standard explores the relationship between education, skills, career choices, and income potential. Students learn to evaluate career options, understand income sources, and develop strategies for financial success.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard I, Jump\$tart Income & Careers, NEFE Income

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 1.1: Jobs vs. Careers

Distinguishes between jobs and careers, exploring how education and skills impact earning potential and career advancement.

[Career Path Planner](#)

#### 1.2: Paying for Post-Secondary Education

Examines options for financing education beyond high school, including scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs.

## FAFSA Navigator

---

### 1.3: Income and Taxes

Explores different types of income, tax structures, and how to understand paycheck withholdings and deductions.

#### W-4 Form Guide

---

### 1.4: Financial Goal Setting

Teaches strategies for setting SMART financial goals and developing action plans to achieve them.

#### Goal Setting Workshop

---

### 1.5: Managing Your Income Effectively

Covers budgeting, cash flow management, and strategies for making the most of your income.

#### Budget Builder

## 2 Taxes

This standard examines how taxes function in our economy, the different types of taxes individuals pay, and strategies for tax planning and compliance. Students gain practical knowledge about filing taxes and maximizing tax benefits.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard II, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Planning & Money Management

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 2.1: Understanding Federal and State Taxes

Explores the structure and purpose of federal and state tax systems, including income, sales, and property taxes.

#### Tax System Analysis

---

## 2.2: Understanding Tax Brackets and Tax Rates

Explains progressive taxation, marginal tax rates, and how to calculate your effective tax rate.

[Tax Bracket Calculator](#)

---

## 2.3: Understanding Tax Filing Requirements

Covers who needs to file taxes, filing statuses, deadlines, and the consequences of not filing.

[Tax Filing Simulator](#)

---

## 2.4: Understanding Tax Deductions and Credits

Explains the difference between deductions and credits and explores common tax benefits available to taxpayers.

[Deduction & Credit Optimizer](#)

---

## 2.5: Tax Planning and Compliance

Provides strategies for legal tax planning, proper record-keeping, and responding to tax notices.

[Tax Planning Workshop](#)

## 3 Financial Services

This standard introduces students to the financial services industry, including different types of financial institutions, products, and services. Students learn how to evaluate and select appropriate financial service providers for their needs.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard III, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Financial System

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 3.1: Understanding Different Types of Financial Service Providers

Compares banks, credit unions, online banks, and other financial service providers and their offerings.

[Financial Institution Comparison](#)

#### 3.2: Choosing and Evaluating Financial Service Providers

Provides criteria for selecting financial institutions and evaluating their services, fees, and accessibility.

[Bank Account Opening Simulator](#)

## 4 Banking Tools

This standard focuses on practical banking skills and tools, including account management, electronic banking, and financial record-keeping. Students develop the ability to effectively use banking tools for everyday financial management.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard IV, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Planning & Money Management

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 4.1: Understanding and Using Banking Tools

Explores checking accounts, savings accounts, online banking, mobile apps, and other banking tools.

[Banking Tools Simulator](#)

## 5 Saving & Investing

This standard explores strategies for saving and investing money to achieve short and long-term financial goals. Students learn about different investment vehicles, risk assessment, and the power of compound interest.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard V, Jump\$tart Saving & Investing, NEFE Saving & Investing

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 5.1: Saving and Investing

Introduces the concepts of saving versus investing and explores different options for both.

[Investment Strategy Builder](#)

#### 5.2: Understanding The Power of Compound Interest and the Rule of 72

Demonstrates how compound interest and time affect investment growth and wealth accumulation.

[Compound Interest Calculator](#)

#### 5.3: Evaluating Saving and Investment Strategies

Provides frameworks for evaluating different saving and investment strategies based on goals and risk tolerance.

[Investment Portfolio Simulator](#)

#### 5.4: Time is Money

Explores the concept of opportunity cost and the time value of money in financial decision-making.

[Time Value Calculator](#)

## 5.5: Understanding Monetary Risk in Saving and Investing

Examines different types of financial risk and strategies for risk management in investing.

[Risk Assessment Tool](#)

## 6 Retirement Planning

This standard focuses on long-term financial planning for retirement. Students learn about the various retirement savings vehicles, estimating retirement needs, and creating a sustainable retirement plan.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard VI, Jump\$tart Saving & Investing, NEFE Planning for the Future

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 6.1: Planning for Retirement

Introduces retirement planning concepts, timeline considerations, and goal-setting for different life stages.

[Retirement Calculator](#)

---

#### 6.2: Longevity and Retirement Planning

Explores how increasing life expectancy impacts retirement planning and strategies for ensuring financial security.

[Longevity Risk Analyzer](#)

## 7 Borrowing

This standard examines the concept of borrowing money, different loan types, and responsible debt management. Students learn how to evaluate loan options, understand interest calculations, and develop effective repayment strategies.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard VII, Jump\$tart Credit & Debt, NEFE Credit & Debt

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 7.1: Understanding the Cost of Borrowing

Explains interest rates, annual percentage rate (APR), loan terms, and the true cost of borrowing money.

[Loan Analyzer](#)

---

#### 7.2: Choosing the Right Source of Credit

Compares different lending sources including banks, credit unions, online lenders, and peer-to-peer lending.

[Loan Comparison Tool](#)

---

#### 7.3: Understanding Credit Score

Explores what makes up a credit score, how scores impact borrowing, and strategies for building good credit.

[Credit Score Simulator](#)

---

#### 7.4: Consumer Credit Legislation

Covers key laws protecting consumer rights in credit transactions and borrowing situations.

[Consumer Rights Navigator](#)

---

#### 7.5: Understanding Student Loans

Provides in-depth information on federal and private student loans, repayment options, and loan forgiveness programs.



## [Student Loan Repayment Planner](#)

## 8 [Credit & Debit Cards](#)

This standard focuses on the responsible use of credit and debit cards, including features, benefits, risks, and security considerations. Students learn to make informed decisions about card usage and online transactions.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard VIII, Jump\$tart Credit & Debt, NEFE Financial System

### **Chapters in this Standard:**

#### **8.1: Credit Card Use and Management**

Explores credit card features, billing cycles, minimum payments, fees, and strategies for responsible credit card use.

[Credit Card Management Simulator](#)

---

#### **8.2: Online Shopping**

Covers secure online shopping practices, evaluating online retailers, and protecting personal and financial information.

[Online Shopping Simulator](#)

## 9 Consumer Protection

This standard explores strategies for protecting yourself as a consumer from fraud, scams, and identity theft. Students learn about consumer rights, identifying fraudulent schemes, and steps to take if victimized.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard IX, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Risk Management

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 9.1: Protecting Yourself from Consumer Fraud

Identifies common types of consumer fraud, red flags of scams, and strategies for protecting yourself from fraudulent schemes.

[Fraud Detection Exercise](#)

#### 9.2: Identity Theft Prevention and Recovery

Covers strategies for preventing identity theft, monitoring credit reports, and steps to take if your identity is stolen.

[Identity Protection Planner](#)

## 10 Housing Decisions

This standard examines the financial aspects of housing decisions, including the rent vs. buy decision, mortgage options, and housing costs. Students learn to evaluate housing choices based on budget, lifestyle, and financial goals.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard X, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Planning & Money Management

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 10.1: Renting vs. Owning - Making Informed Housing Decisions

Compares the financial implications of renting versus buying, examining advantages and disadvantages of each option.

[Rent vs. Buy Calculator](#)

---

## 10.2: Understanding the Cost and Responsibilities of Renting

Covers lease agreements, security deposits, tenant rights and responsibilities, and budgeting for rental costs.

[Rental Budget Planner](#)

---

## 10.3: Understanding Home Buying

Explains the home buying process, mortgage types, down payments, closing costs, and ongoing homeownership expenses.

[Mortgage Estimator](#)

## 11 Risk Management

This standard focuses on identifying and managing various types of risk through insurance and other protection strategies. Students learn about different insurance products and how to assess their insurance needs.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard XI, Jump\$tart Risk Management & Insurance, NEFE Risk Management

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 11.1: Understanding and Managing Risk

Introduces types of financial risk, risk assessment, and strategies for managing different kinds of risk.

[Risk Assessment Tool](#)

---

#### 11.2: Insurance as a Risk Management Tool

Explores different types of insurance including auto, health, homeowners/renters, life, and disability insurance.

[Insurance Coverage Analyzer](#)

---

#### 11.3: Insurance Costs

Examines factors that affect insurance premiums, strategies for reducing insurance costs, and evaluating policy options.

[Insurance Cost Comparison](#)

## 12 Gambling

This standard examines gambling from a financial perspective, including probability, risk assessment, and responsible decision-making. Students develop a critical understanding of gambling activities and their financial implications.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard XII, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Risk Management

## Chapters in this Standard:

### 12.1: Understanding the Risks of Gambling

Explores financial and psychological risks associated with gambling and analyzes probability concepts.

[Probability Simulator](#)

---

### 12.2: The Costs and Benefits of Gambling

Examines the financial impact of gambling on individuals, families, and communities, and explores responsible approaches.

[Risk-Reward Analyzer](#)

## 13 Debt Management

This standard focuses on strategies for managing high levels of debt, understanding debt relief options, and rebuilding financial health. Students learn about various approaches to debt management and financial recovery.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard XIII, Jump\$tart Credit & Debt, NEFE Credit & Debt

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 13.1: Strategies for Managing High Levels of Debt

Covers debt reduction strategies, prioritizing debt payments, debt consolidation, credit counseling, and bankruptcy implications.

[Debt Payoff Calculator](#)

## 14 Charitable Giving

This standard explores philanthropic giving as part of a financial plan. Students learn how to evaluate charitable organizations, understand the tax implications of giving, and align charitable activities with personal values and financial goals.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard XIV, Jump\$tart Financial Decision Making, NEFE Planning & Money Management

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 14.1: Charitable Giving and Financial Planning

Explores how to incorporate charitable giving into a financial plan and examines the tax implications of donations.

[Giving Plan Builder](#)

---

#### 14.2: Checking Out Charitable Groups

Provides frameworks for evaluating charitable organizations, understanding efficiency ratings, and avoiding charity scams.

[Charity Evaluation Tool](#)

## 15 Career Readiness

This standard focuses on preparing students for career success, from job search strategies to workplace readiness skills. Students develop practical tools for career planning, job acquisition, and professional development.

**Alignments:** CEE Standard XV, Jump\$tart Income & Careers, NEFE Career

### Chapters in this Standard:

#### 15.1: Career Exploration and Goal Setting

Guides students through self-assessment, career research, and setting meaningful career goals aligned with personal values.

[Career Path Planner](#)

#### 15.2: Resume Building and Personal Branding

Teaches strategies for creating impactful resumes, developing a professional online presence, and building a personal brand.

[Resume Builder](#)

#### 15.3: Job Application Process

Covers effective job search strategies, application materials preparation, and navigating the hiring process.

[Application Simulator](#)

#### 15.4: Interview Skills and Workplace Readiness

Provides techniques for successful interviewing, workplace etiquette, and professional communication skills.

[Interview Simulator](#)

---

## 15.5: Entrepreneurship and Side Hustles

Explores entrepreneurship concepts, starting a small business, and developing side income opportunities.

[Business Plan Builder](#)



# Implementation Recommendations

While the curriculum is designed to be taught sequentially from Standards 1-15, many teachers choose to focus on specific standards based on student needs and course requirements. Here are some recommended approaches:

## For a Comprehensive Financial Literacy Course

If you have a full semester or year to teach financial literacy, we recommend covering all standards in sequence, spending approximately 1-2 weeks on each standard.

## For a Mini-Course or Unit

If you have limited time, consider focusing on these essential standards:

- 1. **Standard 1:** Income & Careers
- 2. **Standard 4:** Banking Tools
- 3. **Standard 5:** Saving & Investing
- 4. **Standard 7:** Borrowing
- 5. **Standard 15:** Career Readiness

## For Integration into Other Courses

Course	Recommended Standards
Economics	2 (Taxes), 5 (Saving & Investing), 10 (Housing Decisions)
Math	5 (Saving & Investing), 7 (Borrowing), 11 (Risk Management)
Business	1 (Income & Careers), 8 (Credit & Debit Cards), 15 (Career Readiness)
Family & Consumer Sciences	4 (Banking Tools), 9 (Consumer Protection), 13 (Debt Management)

**Need More Details?** For complete information on each standard, including all chapters, learning objectives, and assessment options, please refer to the comprehensive Curriculum Guide available through your PFL Academy teacher portal.

## Implementation Recommendations

While the curriculum is designed to be taught sequentially from Standards 1-15, many teachers choose to focus on specific standards based on student needs and course requirements. Here are some recommended approaches:

### For a Comprehensive Financial Literacy Course

If you have a full semester or year to teach financial literacy, we recommend covering all standards in sequence, spending approximately 1-2 weeks on each standard.

### For a Mini-Course or Unit

If you have limited time, consider focusing on these essential standards:

- 1. **Standard 1:** Income & Careers
- 2. **Standard 4:** Banking Tools
- 3. **Standard 5:** Saving & Investing
- 4. **Standard 7:** Borrowing
- 5. **Standard 15:** Career Readiness

### For Integration into Other Courses

Course	Recommended Standards
Economics	2 (Taxes), 5 (Saving & Investing), 10 (Housing Decisions)
Math	5 (Saving & Investing), 7 (Borrowing), 11 (Risk Management)
Business	1 (Income & Careers), 8 (Credit & Debit Cards), 15 (Career Readiness)

Family & Consumer Sciences	4 (Banking Tools), 9 (Consumer Protection), 13 (Debt Management)
----------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

© 2025 PFL Academy. All rights reserved.

This curriculum standards reference is updated annually. For the latest version, visit your teacher dashboard.