



## Financial Literacy Standards: Executive Summary

The *Stocks in the Future* (SIF) program developed by Johns Hopkins University, incentivizes middle school youngsters to improve school attendance while teaching them financial literacy. Academic skills are reinforced throughout the three-year middle school curriculum and follow standards mandated in the 2011 Maryland State Department of Education's Financial Literacy Standards. Details of the fulfillment are available upon request.

### SUMMARY

*Stocks in the Future's* curriculum reinforces all six standards mandated by MSDE with emphasis on twenty-four of thirty indicators.

- Standard One: "Make informed financially responsible decisions" is SIF's strongest measure. Ninety nine percent of the indicators and their respective objectives are covered by SIF with a strong emphasis on developing and applying the financial literacy vocabulary, comparing factors that affect personal financial decision making and predicting financial outcomes in an applied decision making process.
- Standard Five" Create and Build Wealth" objectives are closely fulfilled with the introduction of wealth building through long term investing. SIF students learn to set goals, compare different types of investment options, determine the correct investment and measure results. Once again, all indicators are covered and 14 out of the 16 sub-indicators are addressed.
- Standards Two, Three, Four and Six standards are moderately covered with SIF curriculum directed at making investments, investment decisions, and comparing investments.
- Standard Three (Plan and Manage Money) standards include "services of financial institutions" and "financial goals based on personal values" but excludes indicators related to taxation and contracts.
- Standard Four (Manage Credit and Debt) standards are included in the SIF seventh grade curriculum where students define debt, explore alternate forms of money including credit cards and debit cards, and sub indicators suggesting the debt risky.
- Standard Six (Manage Risks and Preserve Wealth) focuses on insurance; however, this aspect of business and investments is not covered in the SIF program.

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