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## Mr. 401(k) and the National Standards: A Map for Educators

*How “Mr. 401(k)’s Principles of Financial Literacy” lines up with the National Standards for Personal Financial Education, benchmark by benchmark.*

If you teach personal finance, coordinate a curriculum, or homeschool, you answer to a framework. For most American classrooms that framework is the National Standards for Personal Financial Education, published jointly by the Council for Economic Education and the Jump\$tart Coalition. This page maps the book against that framework honestly: where the book teaches a standard with a worked example and an exercise, we claim it; where it only introduces an idea, or only mentions it, or does not cover it at all, we say so plainly. The book is a trade book that grew out of a taught course, not a textbook, and the map reflects that. Use it to decide where the book carries your unit and where you will want supplements.

### Method

This map was built against the **2021 edition** of the *National Standards for Personal Financial Education* (Council for Economic Education and Jump\$tart Coalition, ISBN 978-1-7348096-2-6), retrieved fresh from the Council for Economic Education on **July 2, 2026**, and confirmed current the same day against the Jump\$tart Coalition standards page (last revised March 24, 2026), which lists the 2021 edition as the current standards with no successor published. The book’s audience spans middle and high school, so the map covers both the **8th-grade** and **12th-grade** standards: 40 and 68 numbered standards respectively, across the six topic areas. Standards are paraphrased briefly here; the full standards document is a free download from either publisher.

Every claimed hit carries a short verbatim quotation from the book (the anchor), so a reviewer can check the claim against the text. Each standard receives one of four grades, applied conservatively:

- **Covered:** the book teaches the standard with its full treatment: concept, worked example with real numbers, and a reader exercise (a Think About It prompt, a Go For It exercise, or a worked drill in the prose).
- **Introduced:** the book defines and illustrates the idea but does not exercise it.
- **Touched:** the book mentions the idea in passing.
- **Absent:** the book does not address it.

This is the second edition of the map, current for the manuscript as of **July 2, 2026**. The first edition was built on June 20, 2026; since then the manuscript has completed a full editorial cycle (a fact-check, a voice review, and a comprehensive review, all closed July 1, 2026). For this edition, every anchor quotation was re-verified word for word against the July text: four are re-quoted below to match refreshed wording, and not one coverage grade changed. The coverage additions of June 2026 remain in place: federal share insurance for credit unions through the NCUA named alongside the FDIC; the words secured and collateral taught as vocabulary; adjustable-rate mortgages named beside fixed-rate; copayment and coinsurance defined; a tax credit distinguished from a deduction; the note that credit reports are read by landlords, some employers, and insurers, not only lenders; the statement that money in payment apps and crypto-exchange accounts carries no federal deposit insurance; a federal-versus-private student loan comparison in Chapter 15; and the regulator-and-protection layer for a first-time investor in Chapter 16.

## Coverage at a Glance

Topic area	8th-grade standards				12th-grade standards				
	Covered	Introduced	Touched	Absent	Covered	Introduced	Touched	Absent	
I. Earning Income	9	6	2	0	11	8	3	0	0
II. Spending	4	1	3	0	9	4	4	0	1
III. Saving	6	4	2	0	9	5	3	0	1
IV. Investing	7	6	1	0	14	10	3	0	1
V. Managing Credit	7	6	1	0	13	4	6	2	1

Topic area	8th-grade standards				12th-grade standards					
	Covered	Introduced	Touched	Absent	Covered	Introduced	Touched	Absent		
VI. Managing Risk	7	2	4	0	1	12	1	5	4	2
<b>All six areas</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Read as a whole: the book addresses **38 of the 40** 8th-grade standards and **56 of the 68** 12th-grade standards at the Covered or Introduced level, with every topic area represented at both grade bands. Across both grade bands together, 57 of the 108 standards are Covered and 94 of the 108 are Covered or Introduced. The book’s deepest coverage sits in Earning Income, Saving, and Investing, which is where its worked-math identity lives. Its lightest coverage is in Managing Risk: the book teaches insurance as a survey in its consumer-protection appendix rather than as a full unit, and Section 4 of the Teacher Companion Pack says exactly what is and is not there, with extensions for classrooms that need more.

## I. Earning Income

The book’s spine runs through this topic: three chapters (4, 5, and 7) plus the college chapter (15), the retirement chapter (17), and the business-plan capstone (Appendix A) teach how income is earned, taxed, and grown.

### 8th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Earning Income 8-1	Careers vary in education and training requirements	Ch 5 job factors (“Education and certifications can unlock higher-paying jobs.”); growth paths in the job-offer table; Ch 15 career questions	Introduced
Earning Income 8-2	Education, job, and career decisions affect income	Ch 5 worked job comparison (“You have two options: McDonald’s and Starbucks.”) with Think About It; Ch 15 career-and-degree decision with Go For It	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Earning Income 8-3	More education and skill raise earning potential	Ch 5 (“a full-time worker with a bachelor’s degree earns roughly \$39 per hour”); Ch 15 lifetime-earnings data; exercised in the Ch 15 Go For It	Covered
Earning Income 8-4	Education and training have opportunity costs	Ch 15 (“You pay first, in money and in years, and the return comes later”) with worked cost math and Think About It prompts	Covered
Earning Income 8-5	Net income is pay after taxes and deductions	Ch 5 worked pay-stub math (“The gross number is what you earn. The net number is what you keep.”) with Think About It	Covered
Earning Income 8-6	Social Security taxes workers to pay benefits	Ch 5 (“funds the Social Security system, which provides retirement income to older Americans”); rates given (6.2% plus employer match); disability and survivor benefits not described	Introduced
Earning Income 8-7	Most income types are taxed	Ch 7 worked tax scenarios (“Each has a different mix of earned, passive, and portfolio income.”) with Think About It	Covered
Earning Income 8-8	Government income support for those who qualify	Not addressed (no treatment of Medicaid, SNAP, or income-assistance programs)	Absent
Earning Income 8-9	Entrepreneurs accept risk expecting profit	Ch 5 three-income business table; Appendix A (“An entrepreneur is someone who organizes and operates a business and takes on financial risk to do it.”) with the full business-plan project	Covered

## 12th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Earning Income 12-1	Compensation includes wages plus employee benefits	Ch 5 benefits-inclusive job comparison (“the wage on the offer letter is not the whole picture”); Ch 17 employer plans and matching; exercised via Think About It	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Earning Income 12-2	Intangible job benefits matter	Ch 5 (“Benefits, scheduling flexibility, growth opportunities, and the skills you develop all factor into the real value of a job.”)	Introduced
Earning Income 12-3	Weighing present education costs against future benefit	Ch 15 throughout (“What will the degree truly cost, counting everything and not just tuition?”) with College Scorecard Go For It	Covered
Earning Income 12-4	Employers pay more for education, skill, productivity	Ch 5 (“Four factors shape how much you can earn: location, industry, skill level, and education.”) with wage data; pay-gap discussion not included	Covered
Earning Income 12-5	Economic and technological change shift careers	Ch 15 (“Artificial intelligence and other technologies are reshaping which skills are valuable”)	Introduced
Earning Income 12-6	Taxes fund government goods, services, transfers	Ch 7 six-tax table and government-funding section (“Roads carry you to school, firefighters respond to emergencies”) with worked calculations	Covered
Earning Income 12-7	Taxes depend on income source, amount, spending	Ch 7 marginal brackets (“different portions of your income are taxed at different rates”) with three worked exercises; W-2 versus 1099 not covered	Covered
Earning Income 12-8	Unearned income; capital gains taxed differently	Ch 5 (“the Internal Revenue Service groups interest, dividends, and capital gains together as portfolio income”); Ch 7 long-term versus short-term rates worked with Think About It	Covered
Earning Income 12-9	Deductions and credits reduce tax liability	Ch 5 standard deduction; Ch 7 distinguishes a deduction (“shrinks the income you are taxed on”) from a tax credit (“comes off the tax itself, dollar for dollar”); Form W-4 not covered	Introduced

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Earning Income 12-10	Retirement income comes from several sources	Ch 5 Social Security; Ch 17 employer plans and IRAs (“contributing enough to collect all of it is the rare financial decision with almost no argument against it”) with Think About It and Go For It	Covered
Earning Income 12-11	Small business as primary or supplemental income	Ch 5 (“One small business can provide three forms of income to the teenager.”) plus gig-style work trade-offs; Appendix A project	Covered

## II. Spending

The book teaches spending as deliberate choice: expense types, needs versus wants as a spectrum, hidden costs, opportunity cost, and a complete budget build.

### 8th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Spending 8-1	A budget guides spending, saving, money management	Ch 6 student budget and Ch 7 full budget build (“A budget is a prediction. It forecasts what will come in and what will go out”) with Go For It exercises in both chapters	Covered
Spending 8-2	Informed buying weighs price, claims, quality	Ch 6 decision frameworks (“Smart spenders account for sneaky costs before they buy, not after.”); product-information sourcing not treated in depth	Introduced
Spending 8-3	Weigh the incentives behind information sources	Ch 3 (“Advertisers spend billions of dollars trying to manipulate your preferences.”); Ch 14 on who quotes APR versus APY	Introduced
Spending 8-4	Costs and benefits of payment methods	Ch 6 (“A debit card pulls money directly from your bank account. A credit card lets you borrow money from a card issuer and pay it back later.”) plus cash and mobile payments	Introduced

### 12th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Spending 12-1	A budget allocates income to goals	Ch 7 steps A to F (“Pay yourself first, set aside taxes, cover your needs, then split what is left between wants and savings”) with Go For It; charitable giving not in the framework	Covered
Spending 12-2	Many forces influence consumer decisions	Ch 3 subjective value and Ch 6 worked decision (“whatever you choose, you choose deliberately rather than impulsively”) with Think About It prompts; environmental and social impact not treated	Covered
Spending 12-3	Durable goods: durability, maintenance, features	Ch 6 sneaky costs (“what else will this cost me over the next six months or year?”); no comparison drill of competing products	Introduced
Spending 12-4	Price advertising, negotiation, inflation	Ch 8 (“Agreed value is the price two people negotiate and accept”); Ch 13 inflation and prices Think About It	Introduced
Spending 12-5	Costs and benefits of consumer research	Ch 6 opportunity cost (“The opportunity cost is the value of whichever alternative you value most.”) and pre-purchase questions	Introduced
Spending 12-6	Housing: rent or buy	Ch 9 mortgage math and Ch 10 home-equity example (“renting is the right answer in plenty of life situations”); rental contracts and a worked rent-versus-buy comparison not included	Introduced
Spending 12-7	Charitable giving	Not addressed as a money topic (the Epilogue’s stewardship message is values guidance, not a giving framework)	Absent

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Spending 12-8	Consumer protection laws and agencies	Appendix B (“the Federal Trade Commission’s fraud data show that people in their teens and twenties report losing money to scams far more often than their grandparents’ generation”) with reporting and recovery resources (reportfraud.ftc.gov, identitytheft.gov) and a Think About It	Covered
Spending 12-9	An organized financial record-keeping system	Ch 6 spending log, Ch 7 budget, Ch 10 (“Take a sheet of paper and build your personal balance sheet.”), all as Go For It exercises, plus seasonal credit-report checks in Appendix B	Covered

### III. Saving

Saving and its machinery (interest, compounding, banks, deposit insurance) run through Chapters 5, 7, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 18.

#### 8th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Saving 8-1	People save for purchases, education, retirement, emergencies	Ch 7 (“Before anything else, set aside 15 percent for long-term goals and investments.”), goal-oriented budgeting, Ch 18 emergency fund, with exercises	Covered
Saving 8-2	Saving decisions depend on circumstances	Ch 7 (“if you live at home and your essentials are largely covered by family, you may not need the full 50 percent”); Ch 1 and Ch 3 on preferences	Introduced
Saving 8-3	Banks pay depositors and charge borrowers	Ch 5 and Ch 11 (“pockets the difference between the interest it pays the depositor and the interest it collects from the borrower”) with Think About It	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Saving 8-4	Interest on principal; rates change outcomes; Rule of 72	Ch 5 interest formula and rate comparison; Ch 14 (“divide 72 by the annual interest rate, expressed as a percent”) with worked table	Covered
Saving 8-5	Compound versus simple interest	Ch 14 (“Compound interest is the difference between earning money and earning money that earns more money.”) with worked tables and Think About It	Covered
Saving 8-6	Federal deposit insurance	Ch 11 (the FDIC, which “insures deposits at member banks up to a limit, \$250,000 per depositor per institution as of 2026”); credit unions noted as carrying the same protection through the NCUA	Introduced

## 12th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Saving 12-1	Types of savings accounts	Ch 11 checking, savings, and CDs (“certificates of deposit, or CDs, which lock up money for a set period in exchange for a higher interest rate”); money market accounts not covered	Introduced
Saving 12-2	Rates and fees vary by institution and market	Ch 5 worked comparison of a 0.01% and a 4% account (“Eighty dollars versus twenty cents.”) with Think About It; Ch 11 on rates and lending conditions	Covered
Saving 12-3	Mobile and crypto accounts lack federal insurance	Ch 11 states that money kept in payment apps or crypto-exchange accounts carries no federal deposit insurance at all; Ch 12 covers exchange custody risk	Introduced
Saving 12-4	Inflation erodes savings; real versus nominal	Ch 13 worked cases (“Your real return is approximately your nominal return minus the inflation rate.”) with Think About It; Ch 16 piggy-bank opener	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Saving 12-5	Regulators supervise financial institutions	Ch 11 Federal Reserve oversight (“It also regulates the commercial banks below it and operates the payment system”) and capital requirements; the NCUA is named as the credit-union regulator; state agencies not named	Introduced
Saving 12-6	Tax-advantaged accounts encourage saving	Ch 17 Traditional and Roth (“A Roth account is the mirror image. You pay tax now, on the way in”) with worked 50-year example; Ch 15 covers the 529	Covered
Saving 12-7	Employer plans and matches encourage saving	Ch 17 (“Many employers match what you contribute.”) with worked match math, vesting, and Think About It; HSAs not covered	Covered
Saving 12-8	Sharing finances with a partner	Not addressed	Absent
Saving 12-9	Strategies against obstacles to saving	Ch 7 pay-yourself-first (“If you wait until the end of the month to save whatever is left over, there is usually nothing left over.”); automatic contributions in Ch 16 and 17; exercised in the budget build	Covered

## IV. Investing

This is the book’s home ground: Chapters 14, 16, and 17 form a complete starter course, with Chapters 4, 5, 8, and 12 supplying the asset vocabulary.

### 8th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Investing 8-1	Investors expect gains and income	Ch 5 dividends and capital gains worked (“A capital gain occurs when you sell an asset for more than your cost basis”) with Think About It	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Investing 8-2	Common financial assets	Ch 16 (“There are six broad places investors put money, and each earns its return in its own way.”) plus CDs in Ch 11; liquidity differences compared	Covered
Investing 8-3	Bonds are loans to the issuer	Ch 16 (“A bond is like lending money to your favorite pizza shop so it can buy a new oven”); Ch 9 two-sides framing; no coupon-income calculation	Introduced
Investing 8-4	Stock is part ownership	Ch 5 Coca-Cola dividends worked; Ch 16 (“A stock is like owning a slice of that same pizza shop”) with Think About It on risks	Covered
Investing 8-5	Pooled investments: mutual funds and ETFs	Ch 16 (“Buy one share of a fund and you own a proportional slice of everything the fund holds.”) with ETF and mutual fund mechanics	Covered
Investing 8-6	Investments differ in risk	Ch 16 risk-and-return rule (“higher potential return comes with higher potential loss”) with per-asset risks and investor profiles	Covered
Investing 8-7	Compounding rewards regular, early investing	Ch 14 start-at-14-versus-40 comparison (“The teenager invested 80% less money and ended with 44% more.”) with formulas; Ch 16 dollar-cost averaging examples	Covered

## 12th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Investing 12-1	Risk tolerance shapes choices	Ch 16 four questions (“how large a loss can you sit through without selling in a panic?”) with three worked investor profiles and Think About It	Covered
Investing 12-2	Returns come from price change and cash flow	Ch 5 dividend-yield math; Ch 16 menu including assets that “earn from price appreciation only.”; volatility shown for Bitcoin	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Investing 12-3	Riskier assets carry higher expected returns	Ch 16 (“There is no investment that pays a high return safely.”) with the 18%-promise warning exercise in Ch 14; value-versus-growth and bond maturities not covered	Covered
Investing 12-4	Real returns are nominal returns less inflation	Ch 13 worked cases (“Real return is approximately the nominal return minus the inflation rate.”); Ch 14 and 18 restate results in real terms	Covered
Investing 12-5	Asset prices respond to conditions and news	Ch 16 price discovery (“the price you see quoted is simply the price of the most recent agreement”), bond-rate seesaw, bubble history	Covered
Investing 12-6	Diversification and asset allocation	Ch 16 (“A target-date fund shifts automatically from stocks toward bonds as a chosen year approaches.”) with starter-portfolio walk-through	Covered
Investing 12-7	Expenses reduce returns	Ch 16 worked fee-drag comparison (“fees compound exactly the way returns do, only against you”)	Covered
Investing 12-8	Taxes alter investment returns by account type	Ch 17 (“The same fund grows to different amounts depending on the account it sits in, and the difference is taxes.”) with worked Roth-versus-taxable math and limits	Covered
Investing 12-9	Behavioral biases hurt investors	Ch 16 FOMO, panic selling, bubbles (“a market price reflects human judgment, and human judgment swings between greed and fear”) with the steady-habit defense; formal bias names not used	Covered
Investing 12-10	Technology can counter emotional investing	Ch 16 automatic dollar-cost averaging (“a crash makes it buy more while they are cheap, with no decision required from you”); robo-advisors not covered	Introduced

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Investing 12-11	Low-cost brokerage access	Ch 16 custodial accounts (“start with as little as a dollar and buy fractional shares”) with concrete starting steps; Ch 17 Go For It opens an account	Covered
Investing 12-12	Market regulation and investor protection	Ch 12 (“Regulatory uncertainty is the open question.”); Ch 16 adds the regulator-and-protection layer for a first-time investor (SEC and FINRA oversight, SIPC custodial coverage); insider trading not treated	Introduced
Investing 12-13	Benchmarks and index comparison	Ch 16 (“usually measured by an index like the S&P 500”) with index-fund-versus-active evidence	Introduced
Investing 12-14	Choosing financial professionals	Not addressed	Absent

## V. Managing Credit

The book teaches debt through full worked examples (a thirty-year mortgage, a student loan, a credit card carried at the minimum) and the credit-report machinery in Appendix B.

### 8th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Credit 8-1	Rates vary by lender, loan type, conditions	Ch 9 (“Lenders charge more interest for longer loans, for larger amounts, and for borrowers who look riskier.”); Ch 14 on why lenders charge; card-versus-mortgage rates compared	Covered
Managing Credit 8-2	APR as the cost of credit	Ch 14 (“APR stands for Annual Percentage Rate: the nominal annual rate before the effect of compounding within the year.”); no APR calculation drill; introductory-rate behavior not covered	Introduced

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Credit 8-3	Longer terms and higher rates raise total interest	Ch 9 full amortization (“The extra \$463,353 is interest: the cumulative rent you paid for the use of the lender’s money.”) with prediction Think About It; Ch 15 repayment-speed comparison	Covered
Managing Credit 8-4	Credit cards charge high rates; minimizing interest	Ch 14 unsecured-rate explanation; Ch 18 trap math (“revolving debt at 20% is the most expensive, most avoidable hole a young person can fall into”) with pay-in-full lesson and Think About It	Covered
Managing Credit 8-5	Lenders price borrowers by credit history	Ch 9 (“your credit score, a number that summarizes how reliably you have repaid money in the past”); full machinery in Appendix B	Covered
Managing Credit 8-6	Borrowing for education or housing can pay off	Ch 9 (“Used with open eyes, debt is a tool that can put a home or an education within reach years early.”); Ch 15 runs the education case in full with Think About It	Covered
Managing Credit 8-7	Debt can damage personal finances	Ch 9 debt service and the borrowing-to-repay trap (“This is the trap, and it is how small debts grow into big ones.”) with Think About It; Ch 18 card example	Covered

## 12th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Credit 12-1	Comparing credit costs by APR and terms	Ch 14 (“Savings accounts are usually advertised in APY, the higher number, while loans and credit cards are usually advertised in APR”); grace periods and fee structures not covered	Introduced

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Credit 12-2	Secured versus unsecured loans	Ch 14 teaches the vocabulary directly (“a secured loan backed by collateral the lender can repossess”) against unsecured credit-card debt (“there is no specific asset the lender can take back”); Ch 9 repossession consequences	Introduced
Managing Credit 12-3	Mortgage payments vary by amount, term, rate	Ch 9 worked thirty-year mortgage (“Your monthly payment, the borrower’s debt service, is \$2,398.”) with the rate noted as fixed while “other mortgages are adjustable, repricing over time”; Appendix B prices a 6% versus 7% rate	Covered
Managing Credit 12-4	Financing college: aid, savings, loans	Ch 15 (“Aid begins with one federal form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA”) with grants, scholarships, work-study, the 529, cheaper-path options, and the Go For It	Covered
Managing Credit 12-5	Federal versus private student loans	Ch 13 notes fixed rates on “most federal student loans and conventional mortgages”; Ch 15 contrasts the two, with federal loans carrying fixed rates, income-driven repayment, and forgiveness paths that private loans lack, and advises borrowing federal first	Introduced
Managing Credit 12-6	Down payments reduce borrowing	Ch 9 (“You make a \$100,000 down payment, leaving \$400,000 to borrow.”); Ch 10 car and house equity; no down-payment comparison drill	Introduced
Managing Credit 12-7	Credit reports and credit bureaus	Appendix B (“Three companies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) keep these files on nearly every adult in America.”) with free weekly reports and error checks	Covered

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Credit 12-8	Credit scores and improving them	Appendix B (“The most widely used version, the FICO score, runs from 300 to 850, and higher is better.”) with the published factor weights and rate-impact math	Covered
Managing Credit 12-9	Credit reports used beyond lending	Appendix B (“landlords, some employers, and insurers may check the same file, so it can shape whether you get an apartment, a job, or a policy”)	Introduced
Managing Credit 12-10	Help for borrowers in trouble	Ch 9 four repayment sources (“There are exactly four sources.”) with Think About It; credit counseling services not covered	Introduced
Managing Credit 12-11	Bankruptcy in extreme cases	Ch 12 corporate failure only (“Mt. Gox declared bankruptcy.”); personal bankruptcy not treated	Touched
Managing Credit 12-12	Consumer credit protection laws	Appendix B under-21 card rule (“before 21, card issuers ask for your own income or a co-signer 21 or older”) and the free-report right; disclosure, discrimination, and collection law not treated	Touched
Managing Credit 12-13	Alternative financial services	Not addressed (payday lending, check cashing, pawnshops); buy-now-pay-later appears in Ch 9 as a liability example	Absent

## VI. Managing Risk

This is the book’s lightest topic by design: insurance arrives as a survey in Appendix B (Protect It), alongside strong treatments of emergency funds, identity theft, and fraud.

### 8th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Risk 8-1	Unexpected events cause financial loss	Ch 1 uncertainty; Ch 18 emergency buffer; Appendix B (“The world contains accidents that can erase years of saving in an afternoon”) with emergency-fund exercises in Ch 6 and 7	Covered
Managing Risk 8-2	Insurance transfers loss for a premium	Appendix B (“Many people each pay a small, regular amount, called a premium, into a shared pool.”)	Introduced
Managing Risk 8-3	Pooling; higher risk means higher premiums	Appendix B (“The few who get hit by disaster are paid from the pool.”); risk-based premium pricing not developed	Introduced
Managing Risk 8-4	Premiums, deductibles, copayments, coinsurance	Appendix B defines all four (“A copayment is a flat fee for a visit or a prescription, and coinsurance is the percentage of a bill you keep paying after the deductible is met.”); an out-of-pocket calculation is not exercised	Introduced
Managing Risk 8-5	Avoid, reduce, retain, or transfer risk	Appendix B teaches the retain-versus-transfer split in plain words (“insure the disasters, and let your emergency fund absorb the inconveniences”); the four-option framework is not named	Introduced
Managing Risk 8-6	Extended warranties and service contracts	Not addressed	Absent
Managing Risk 8-7	Identity theft	Appendix B (“An account you do not recognize is the classic sign that someone has stolen your identity.”) with monitoring, freezes, and recovery steps, exercised in the Think About It	Covered

## 12th grade

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Risk 12-1	People differ in risk acceptance and insurance willingness	Appendix B (“you are renting the certainty that one bad day cannot undo your whole financial life”)	Introduced
Managing Risk 12-2	Insurance decisions depend on personal circumstances	Appendix B life-stage mapping (“Four kinds of insurance will matter to almost every reader of this book.”)	Introduced
Managing Risk 12-3	Some insurance is mandatory	Appendix B (“Auto insurance is required by law for drivers nearly everywhere”); lender-required homeowners coverage not mentioned	Introduced
Managing Risk 12-4	Risk reduction and deductibles lower premiums	Appendix B (“Accept a higher deductible and the premium falls; demand a lower one and the premium rises.”)	Introduced
Managing Risk 12-5	Health insurance and employer coverage	Appendix B (“most young people can stay on a parent’s plan until age 26”); coverage mechanics and employer premiums not treated	Touched
Managing Risk 12-6	Disability insurance	Appendix B one-sentence definition (“disability insurance, which replaces part of your paycheck if illness or injury keeps you from working”)	Touched
Managing Risk 12-7	Auto, homeowners, renters coverage	Appendix B renters and auto with real premium (“as of 2026, a typical policy runs about \$170 a year, around \$14 a month”); liability coverage not explained	Introduced
Managing Risk 12-8	Life insurance	Appendix B (“life insurance joins the list when someone depends on your income”)	Touched
Managing Risk 12-9	Public insurance programs	Ch 5 Medicare as a payroll-funded program (“funds the Medicare healthcare program for Americans 65 and older”); Medicaid and unemployment insurance not treated	Touched
Managing Risk 12-10	Insurance fraud	Not addressed	Absent

Standard	In brief	Where the book teaches it	Coverage
Managing Risk 12-11	Online vulnerability, identity theft, fraud	Appendix B in full: the three tells, payment tells, phishing, fake jobs, money mules, recovery (“call the number on the back of your card, not the number in the message”) with Think About It	Covered
Managing Risk 12-12	Extended warranties resemble insurance	Not addressed	Absent

## Beyond the Standards

A standards map measures fit against a framework. It does not measure what a book adds. This book teaches a body of material the national standards do not ask for, and that material is the book’s identity. In a standards-aligned classroom it functions as enrichment and as the conceptual *why* underneath the standards’ *how*:

- **What money is and where it came from** (Chapters 1 and 2): several thousand years of monetary history, the three functions and six characteristics of money, and the competing theories of monetary value, through the 1971 end of gold backing.
- **How value works** (Chapters 3 and 4): subjective value, preferences, marginal utility, voluntary exchange, and specialization, taught through real thinkers (Menger, Mises, Smith) and lived examples.
- **The accounting equation** (Chapters 8 through 10): assets, liabilities, equity, and the balance sheet, built into a personal net-worth practice. The standards never ask for the accounting framework; the book makes it the spine of Part III.
- **How banks create money** (Chapter 11): fractional reserve banking, the deposit-loan cascade, bank runs (including the 2015 Greek capital controls, told first-hand), FDIC and NCUA limits, moral hazard, M2, and the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet.
- **Bitcoin, explained honestly** (Chapter 12): where it came from, how it works, custody, volatility, and risk, argued neither for nor against. The standards mention cryptocurrency only as an account type and a speculative asset; the book gives the subject a full, balanced chapter.
- **Inflation at full depth** (Chapter 13): CPI mechanics and limitations, the Cantillon effect, hyperinflation cases (Weimar Germany, Venezuela), and the case for and against the elastic-money system, presented evenhandedly.
- **The time value of money as arithmetic** (Chapter 14): present value, future value, and the start-early comparison, with every formula shown.
- **A complete college-investment analysis** (Chapter 15): lifetime-earnings me-

dians, completion rates, total-cost accounting, loan-repayment math, and the College Scorecard and Occupational Outlook Handbook as research tools.

- **Market price discovery and manias** (Chapter 16): how exchanges set prices, five centuries of bubbles, and prediction markets as price-as-information.
- **The business-plan capstone** (Appendix A): a nine-section project adapted directly from the taught course.
- **The consumer-defense appendix** (Appendix B): scam tells, payment tells, and the credit-record machinery, written for the readers the Federal Trade Commission's fraud data show reporting money lost to scams far more often than their grandparents' generation.

## Classroom Apparatus

The book carries its course apparatus with it:

- **47 Think About It prompts:** discussion-ready questions embedded at the point of teaching, one to five in each of the eighteen chapters, plus one in Appendix B.
- **7 Go For It exercises:** hands-on assignments (a one-week spending log, a built budget, a personal balance sheet, an M2 data lookup, a College Scorecard comparison, a custodial Roth IRA conversation, and a first earn-and-invest plan).
- **18 chapter summaries:** each chapter closes with a recap suitable for review or assessment writing.
- **A Start Here orientation:** two reading paths (front to back for the why, or straight to Chapter 5, where the first paycheck arrives), useful for placing the book inside an existing unit sequence.
- **A 211-term glossary:** every term defined as the book uses it, each pointing back to the chapter that teaches it.
- **A sources section** with more than one hundred entries, organized by chapter, citing the public datasets (FRED, BLS, Census-derived research, College Scorecard) behind the book's figures.
- **An index** keyed to chapters in the print editions (the eBook is reflowable and relies on search).
- **Appendix A** as a ready project-based unit: the Money Mavericks business plan, nine sections plus a sixty-second pitch, designed for small teams.
- **Appendix B** as a consumer-protection mini-unit: insurance survey, credit reports and scores, scams and identity theft.

Worked numbers are shown in full throughout, so a teacher can put any example on a board and recompute it with a class.

## Reading Level

The manuscript is written to a hard ceiling of 10th-grade reading level, with a working target at or below grade 8.5. Measured with the project's single pinned Flesch-Kincaid estimator, recorded scores across the book's components run from roughly grade 3.6 to 8.6, with the Introduction and the tax chapter at the top edge and every component under the ceiling. In practice this means an able middle schooler can

read the book unassisted, and the prose stays out of the way of high school and adult readers. The audience the book is written toward is teenagers roughly 13 to 19, the parents and educators reading alongside them, and adults early in their careers.

## **A Note on State Requirements**

As of mid-2026 (re-checked July 2, 2026), Next Gen Personal Finance’s state tracker counts 30 states that guarantee a standalone personal-finance course for all high school students (its dashboard as of May 23, 2026), and the Council for Economic Education’s 2026 Survey of the States counts 39 states that require personal finance for graduation when you include the 13 states that require it within another course alongside the standalone-course states. Recent additions include California, Delaware, Colorado, and Hawaii. Most state standards documents in personal finance derive from, or cross-reference, the CEE and Jump\$tart national framework this map is built against, which is why the map uses it as the yardstick. The book is a trade book, and it does not claim to be a complete course; its fit is as a supplemental or anchor text whose coverage a teacher can verify against this map, with the capstone and appendices supplying project and consumer-protection units.

## **When This Map Gets Refreshed**

This map is current for the manuscript as of July 2, 2026, measured against the 2021 edition of the national standards. It will be re-run when the Council for Economic Education and the Jump\$tart Coalition publish a revised edition of the standards, or when the manuscript changes materially. If you find a claim that does not hold up against the text, we want to know: every row above is meant to survive exactly that check.

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