

Online Resources for Financial Education

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This list includes three types of resources (Web sites, calculators, and videos) for ten personal finance topics: 1. Banking, 2. College Financial Planning, 3. Credit and Debt, 4. General Financial Planning, 5. Identity Theft, 6. Income Taxes, 7. Insurance, 8. Investing, 9. Retirement Planning, and 10. Saving. A brief description of each resource is provided. Most resources cited are from government agencies, non-profit organizations, or educational institutions. This document concludes with a list of free financial education curricula for youth and adult financial educators.

Banking

Web Sites

Comptroller of the Currency: Answers About Bank Accounts: <https://www.fdic.gov/edie/index.html>

This Web site provides a comprehensive overview of topics related to bank checking and savings accounts.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC): <http://www.fdic.gov/>

This is the Web site of the federal government agency that provides insurance for bank depositors' accounts in the event that a bank fails. It includes information on banking and FDIC insurance.

FDIC Electronic Deposit Insurance Estimator (EDIE): <https://www.fdic.gov/edie/index.html>

EDIE tells users how bank insurance rules apply to their specific group of deposit accounts. The Estimator tells users what's insured and what portion (if any) of their assets exceeds FDIC coverage limits.

Federal Reserve Board: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/>

The "Consumer Information" section contains information about banking, credit, and mortgage topics.

National Credit Union Administration (NCUA): <http://www.ncua.gov>

This is the Web site of the federal government agency that provides insurance for credit union depositors' accounts in the event that a credit union fails. It includes information on credit unions and NCUA insurance.

Calculator

Savings Calculator (Dinkytown.net): <http://www.dinkytown.net/java/CompoundSavings.html>

This web site features a calculator to determine estimated savings at a certain APY for a certain time period.

Videos

Check-Cashing Services: <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/checking/video-check-cashing-services.aspx>.

This one minute, 4 second video discusses the high cost of check-cashing services and viable alternatives.

How to Balance Your Checkbook: http://www.ehow.com/about_4569806_checkbook-balancing.html?ref=Track2&utm_source=ask

This 1 minute, 51 second Howcast video describes an 8-step process for balancing a checking account.

College Financial Planning

Web Sites

Bureau of Labor Statistics Wage Data: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>

This Web site provides wage data by state and region to help students find out what their future earnings might be.

College Navigator (National Center for Education Statistics): <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

This Web site provides searchable information about specific colleges and their costs and financial aid programs.

College Savings Plans Network: <http://www.collegesavings.org>

This Web site provides data about 529 plans and helps users compare 529 plans by feature and by state.

Consolidation Loans (Federal Student Aid): <http://www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov/>

This Web site provides information about how to combine a number of existing student loans into one loan.

Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA): <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch07.html>

This IRS fact sheet describes the contribution limits and tax advantages of Coverdell ESAs.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Web Site: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

This Web site provides information about filing the federal FAFSA form to apply for student financial aid.

Federal Student Aid (U.S. Department of Education): www.studentaid.ed.gov

This Web site provides information about types of financial aid, qualifications for aid, and the application process.

FinAid: www.finaid.org

This Web site is a comprehensive one-stop resource for information about college financial aid and savings plans.

IRS Publication 970: Tax Benefits For Education: <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html>

This Web site provides the content of a comprehensive IRS publication on tax benefits related to education.

Smart Saving for College-Better Buy Degrees (FINRA):
<http://www.finra.org/web/groups/investors/@inv/@smart/@college/documents/investors/p124094.pdf>

This Web link goes to a 26-page publication that discusses college planning and available savings vehicles.

Saving For College: <http://www.savingforcollege.com/>

This Web site provides data about 529 plans and helps users compare 529 plans by feature and by state.

The GI Bill Web Site (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs): <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

This is the official “one stop” U.S. government Web site about educational benefits for veterans.

UGMA (Uniform Gifts to Minors) and UTMA (Uniform Transfers to Minors) Custodial Accounts:
<http://www.finaid.org/savings/ugma.phtml>

This Web site describes the features of UGMA/UTMA accounts and their potential impact on student financial aid.

Calculators

College Savings Calculator (The College Board):

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/college-savings-calculator>

This Web site contains an online calculator that asks a series of questions to determine the cost of college.

College Savings Calculator (FINRA): <http://apps.finra.org/Calcs/1/CollegeSavings>

This Web site contains an online calculator that asks a series of questions to determine the cost of college.

Coverdell ESA Calculator: <http://www.calxml.com/calculators/coverdell-esa>

This Web site contains information about Coverdell ESAs and a calculator to determine the future value of savings

Fin Aid: <http://www.finaid.org/calculators/costprojector.phtml>

This Web site contains an online calculator that asks a series of questions to determine the cost of college.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS634>

This Web site contains a downloadable “paper and pencil” worksheet for users to calculate college costs.

Saving for College: <http://www.savingforcollege.com/college-savings-calculator/>

This Web site contains an online calculator that asks a series of questions to determine the cost of college.

Videos

About the College Savings Plans Network (CSPN): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baEVuFgWhak>

This one minute, 41 second video discusses the mission and resources of the College Savings Plan Network.

Education Tax Credits and Deductions (IRS): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w24hxBwF0>

This one minute, 20 second IRS video provides an overview of available college education tax benefits.

Five Was Ed Pays: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spNDLD2KRuA>

This 2-minute video describes a variety of ways that post-secondary education enriches people’s lives.

Introduction to Student Financial Aid: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7GJ8RQU0_o&feature=topics

This 3-minute video describes the process of completing a FAFSA form to apply for federal student aid.

Credit and Debt

Web Sites

Annual Credit Report Web Site: <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>

This is the central source Web site where consumers can request a free credit report under federal law from all three major credit reporting agencies: Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion.

Consumer Action: <http://www.consumer-action.org/>

This Web site contains information on a variety of credit-related topics and results of periodic surveys about different types of credit and debit cards (e.g., secured card survey).

Federal Reserve Credit Cards Consumer's Guide: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/creditcard/default.htm>

This Web site contains a number of interactive tools and features, information about how to read a credit card statement, and information about credit card rules and regulations.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC): Credit Cards and Consumer Loans:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/credit/loans.shtm>

This Web site provides links to PDF files for fact sheets on a variety of credit and debt related topics.

MyFICO Web Site: <http://www.myfico.com>

This is the Web site of Fair Isaac Corporation, the provider of FICO credit scores. It includes information about how credit scores are calculated and links for consumers to order their credit score for a fee.

National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC): <http://www.nfcc.org/>

This Web site can help consumers locate a NFCC member agency to obtain credit counseling services.

PowerPay Web Site (Utah State University Extension): www.powerpay.org

This Web site helps users set up a calendar for accelerated debt repayment by comparing debt payoff methods.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension *Wise Credit Management Quiz*: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/wise-credit/>

This is the link to a 20-question assessment tool about credit management practices. Persons who complete the quiz receive a score, an interpretation of their score, and a list of action steps.

Reverse Mortgage Web Site: http://www.aarp.org/money/credit-loans-debt/reverse_mortgages/

This link provides users with links to almost a dozen AARP publications about reverse mortgages.

The Credit Score Quiz: <http://www.creditscorequiz.org/>

This Web site, developed by the Consumer Federation of America, contains a 21-question credit score quiz and supporting resource materials about credit scores.

VantageScore® Web Site: <http://www.experian.com/consumer-products/vantage-score.html>

This Web site describes the VantageScore®, a credit score developed jointly by the three major credit reporting agencies Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion.

Whatsmyscore.org: <http://whatsmyscore.org/estimator/>

This Web site includes the FICO Score Estimator where users can get a rough estimate of their FICO score.

Calculators

Auto Calculators (Edmunds.com): <http://www.edmunds.com/calculators/>

This Web site includes six calculators to help users make car loan, lease, and trade-in decisions.

Auto Lease Calculator (Edmunds.com): <http://www.edmunds.com/calculators/car-lease.html>

This calculator helps users calculate the monthly payment for an auto lease.

Calculators (Bankrate.com): <http://www.bankrate.com/calculators.aspx>

A comprehensive “calculator Web site” with calculators for credit cards, mortgages, car loans, and other topics.

Federal Reserve Credit Card Repayment Calculator: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/creditcardcalculator/>

Users can input their credit card balance and APR and the calculator will tell how long it will take to pay off their debt making only minimum payments and how to develop a plan to pay off their balance sooner.

FICO Loan Savings Calculator: <http://www.myfico.com/myfico/creditcentral/loanrates.aspx>

The loan calculator shows the cost of a loan (monthly payment and total cost) for people with varying credit scores.

Should I Rent or Buy a Home? (Yahoo Calculator): http://realestate.yahoo.com/calculators/rent_vs_own.html

This Web site allows users to calculate the difference between renting a property and buying a home.

Videos

Consumer Credit and Debt: Co-Signing a Loan: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yte4MBtoAqg>

This video uses conversations among three cartoon characters to explain the pitfalls of co-signing a loan.

Types of Bankruptcy: http://www.ehow.com/video_4982843_types-bankruptcy.html#ixzz1mBijwRnz

This video features a bankruptcy lawyer who discusses various types of personal and organizational bankruptcies.

General Financial Planning

Web Sites

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board): <http://www.cfp.net/>

This Web site provides information about financial planning topics and information about how to find a certified financial planner in a particular geographic region.

eXtension Personal Finance Web Site: http://www.extension.org/personal_finance

This Web site combines the best online personal finance resources of Cooperative Extension nationwide.

Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC): <http://www.mymoney.gov/>

This Web site is a “one-stop shop” of financial education resources from 20 federal government agencies.

Financial Planning Association (FPA): www.fpanet.org

This Web site provides information about financial planning topics and information about how to find a FPA member financial planner in a particular geographic region.

National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA): <http://www.napfa.org/>

This Web site provides information about financial planning topics and information about how to find a NAPFA member (fee-only financial planner) in a particular geographic region.

Publications.U.S.A.gov: www.publications.usa.gov

This Web site is a source for federal government publications on a variety of topics, including personal finance.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Financial Fitness Quiz: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/ffquiz/>

This is the link to a 20-question quiz that assesses users’ frequency of performing recommended financial management practices. The quiz provides a score, an interpretation of the score, and a list of recommended action steps.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Money and Investing Web Site: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/>.

This Web site provides links to personal finance information available from Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Smart About Money: <http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/>

This National Endowment for Financial Education Web site contains information about a variety of personal finance topics and is organized around life events and key financial decisions.

The Wall Street Journal (Personal Finance): <http://online.wsj.com/public/page/news-personal-finance.html>

This Web site contains links to *Wall Street Journal* articles about a wide variety of personal finance topics.

USA Today Money News: <http://www.usatoday.com/money/>

This online version of the *USA Today* newspaper contains articles about business and personal finance topics.

Women’s Institute for Financial Education: <http://www.wife.org/>

This Web site includes feature articles on personal finance with a special emphasis on topics of interest to women.

Identity Theft

Web Sites

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Identity Theft Affidavit:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/resources/forms/affidavit.pdf>

This is the link to the official FTC form that identity theft victims can use to report an identity theft crime to creditors, financial institutions, and others.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Identity Theft Web Site: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

The FTC is the federal government agency with broad authority over identity theft and has an excellent Web site that is a one-stop resource to learn about identity theft.

FINRA: <http://www.finra.org/Investors/ProtectYourself/InvestorAlerts/FraudsAndScams/p010734>

This Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) fact discusses “phishing” and other online identity theft scams, including those related to investment fraud.

National Consumers League: <http://www.fraud.org/tips/internet/idtheftavoid.htm>

This online fact sheet from the National Consumers League has a good summary of recommended practices to reduce the risk of becoming an identity theft victim.

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse: <http://www.privacyrights.org/>

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse is a non-profit consumer organization that raises awareness of how technology affects privacy and has excellent resources about identity theft.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Identity Theft Risk Assessment Quiz: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/identitytheft/>

This is the link to a 20-question online identity theft risk self-assessment tool. Persons who complete the quiz receive a score, an interpretation of their score, and a list of action steps.

Videos

Federal Trade Commission Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IEBVlh7bzc>

This is a one minute, 8 second video about causes of identity theft. Set to music, it shows various ways that identity thieves steal personal information from victims.

Federal Trade Commission Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoPJImjP1ZO>

This video is one minute, 53 seconds in length. It features dozens of short statements from identity theft victims who describe their personal experiences.

Phishing Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8lWLwuiDwk>

This video is 2 minutes, 31 seconds long and is done in “whiteboard” presentation style. It describes what phishing is and how to prevent it.

Income Taxes

Web Sites

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) Assistant for Individuals (IRS):

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=150703,00.html>

The AMT Assistant contains a few short questions to help users determine whether or not they have to pay the AMT.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach Campaign: <http://eitcoutreach.org/>

This Web site contains information about the EITC and links to EITC outreach campaign materials.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Assistant: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=130102,00.html>

The EITC Assistant contains questions to help users determine whether or not they are eligible for the EITC.

How Income Tax Audits Work (How Stuff Works): <http://money.howstuffworks.com/personal-finance/personal-income-taxes/income-tax-audits.htm>

This “How Stuff Works” Web page describes what a tax audit is and how to prepare for one, if necessary.

How Long to Keep Financial Records (Bankrate): <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/personal-finance/how-long-to-keep-financial-records.aspx>

This Web site has a helpful “Financial Records Timeline” chart that tells how long documents should be stored.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): <http://www.irs.gov/>

This is a go-to Web site for federal income tax information, publications, forms, tools, and tax filing. An especially helpful reference is IRS Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax*: <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p17/index.html>.

Paycheck City: <http://www.paycheckcity.com/>

The interactive calculators on this site can tell users how much income tax will be deducted from their income.

Tax Credit vs. Deduction (Kiplinger): <http://www.kiplinger.com/columns/ask/archive/2007/q0319.htm>

The Web page explains the difference between tax deductions and tax credits with numerical examples.

Tax Information (Rutgers Cooperative Extension): <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/taxinfo/>

This Web page lists federal marginal tax brackets by income ranges and tax filing status (e.g., single, married).

Taxes Terms (Investopedia): <http://www.investopedia.com/categories/taxes.asp?page=2#axzz2BMmdXRMM>

This Web site provides an easily searchable comprehensive glossary of tax terms organized in alphabetical order.

Taxpayer Advocate Service (IRS): <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Taxpayer-Advocate-Service-6>

This Web page contains over a dozen links about an IRS office that helps taxpayers resolve problems with the IRS.

Test Your Income Tax Knowledge: <http://money.howstuffworks.com/personal-finance/personal-income-taxes/income-tax-quiz.htm>

This 20-question quiz tests users’ knowledge of income tax history and regulations.

Understanding Taxes Curriculum (IRS): http://www.irs.gov/app/understandingTaxes/student/whys_thm04_les02.jsp

This Web site has separate portals for students and teachers who can access educational content about income taxes.

Calculators

Payroll Deductions Calculator (Dinkytown.net): <http://www.dinkytown.net/java/Payroll.html>

This Web page provides a payroll deductions calculator based on variables such as anticipated itemized deductions.

Mortgage Tax Deduction Calculator (Money-Zine): <http://www.money-zine.com/Calculators/Mortgage-Calculators/Mortgage-Tax-Deduction-Calculator/>

This Web site has a calculator that tells homeowners their tax deduction benefit over the life of their mortgage.

Withholding Calculator (IRS): <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator>

This calculator helps employees determine whether they have too much or too little tax withheld from their pay.

Videos

Common Income Tax Deductions (TurboTax):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf9tnErWNZs&playnext=1&list=PL6523916D525C4366&feature=results_main

This one-minute, 48 second video explains the difference between the standard deduction and itemized deductions and common types of itemized deductions.

“Dirty Dozen” Tax Scams for 2012: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q85-NghrsY>

This two minute, 30 second video describes how tax identity theft occurs and other common tax scams.

Earned Income Tax Credit and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=11D5nETWcGI

This three minute, 35 second video explains these two valuable resources for low- and moderate-income families.

Haven’t Filed a Tax Return in Years? (IRS): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz4AJBWE_Ac

This one minute video explains what people should do if they haven’t filed past tax returns and should have.

Tax Deduction Tips and Advice: How to Take Federal Income Tax Deductions:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFkRIT6wEV8>

This video describes IRS Schedule A and available federal income tax deductions.

The Appeals Examination Process (IRS): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZSI1RsIRG0>

This nine-minute video provides an explanation of the IRS appeals process used to resolve tax issues.

Your Guide to an IRS Audit (IRS): www.irsvideos.gov/audit/

This Web site contains a series of 10 short videos that discuss topics related to the IRS tax audit process.

Insurance

Web Sites

Best's Credit Ratings (A.M. Best Company): <http://www3.ambest.com/ratings/default.asp>

This Web site provides information about how A.M. Best rates the financial strength of insurance companies.

Car Insurance Basics (Insure.com): <http://www.insure.com/car-insurance/basics.html>

This Web site discusses seven key components of auto insurance policies and insurance terminology.

Glossary of Insurance Terms (A.M. Best): <http://www.ambest.com/resource/glossary.html>

This Web site provides an easily searchable comprehensive glossary of insurance terms.

Health Insurance Glossary: <http://www.healthinsurance.org/glossary/category/a/>

This Web site provides an easily searchable comprehensive glossary of health insurance terms.

Health Savings Accounts and Other Tax-Favored Health Plans: <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p969/index.html>

IRS publication 969 discusses HSAs and three other types of tax-advantaged plans to save for health care expenses.

Insurance Information Institute: <http://www.iii.org/>

This Web site has information about a variety of insurance topics including how to make a claim and flood insurance.

Insurance Premium Quote Web Sites: Insure.com (www.insure.com), InsWeb (www.insweb.com), Quick Quote (www.quickquote.com), and Lower Rate quotes (www.lowerratequotes.com)

These Web sites are examples of available commercial resources that provide insurance premium quote services.

Long Term Care (LTC) Information (Department of Health and Human Services): <http://www.longtermcare.gov>

This Web site discusses types of long-term care services, how much they cost, and how to plan ahead for LTC needs.

Medicaid Web Site: <http://www.medicaid.gov/>

This Web site describes features of Medicaid, eligibility requirements, and how to sign up for benefits.

Medicare Web Site (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services): <http://www.medicare.gov/>

This is the official U.S. government Medicare Web site and includes links for information and online search tools.

National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC): <http://www.naic.org/>

This Web site provides information about a variety of insurance and insurance regulation topics.

National Insurance Crime Bureau: <https://www.nicb.org/>

This Web site contains a service to check vehicle identification numbers (VINs) and information about fraud topics.

Social Security Disability Insurance: <http://www.ssa.gov/disability/>

This Web site provides information about qualifications to receive Social Security disability and how to apply for it.

Weiss Ratings: <http://www.weissratings.com/>

This Web site provides information about how Weiss Ratings evaluates the financial strength of insurance companies.

Who Needs Disability Insurance? (LIFE): <http://www.lifehappens.org/who-needs-disability-insurance/>

This Web site provides information about disability insurance such as who needs it and where to buy it.

Calculators

Care Cost Calculator (National Advisory Center for LTC Insurance): <http://www.longtermcareinsurance.org/>

The calculator shows the average cost of long term care in an area to help users determine savings or insurance needs.

Evaluate Life Insurance (Consumer Federation of America): <http://www.evaluatelifeinsurance.org/>

This Web site describes a resource for evaluating the rate of return on a cash value life insurance policy.

Life Insurance Needs Calculator: <http://www.lifehappens.org/life-insurance-needs-calculator/>

This online calculator helps people determine how much life insurance they need based on personal variables.

Videos

Deductibles and Coinsurances: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IybFtOtXdc&feature=related>

This 2 minute, 42 second whiteboard video explains key insurance terms such as copays, deductibles, and maximums.

How Does Health Insurance Work? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXfGeMNnBsM&feature=related>

This 2-minute whiteboard video explains how health insurance works and key health insurance terms.

How to Buy Car Insurance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbLoU6dEisg&feature=relmfu>

This 3-minute video explains the steps involved in purchasing an auto insurance policy.

How to Buy Homeowner's Insurance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luoRjGjUQqY>

This 3-minute video explains the steps involved in purchasing a homeowner's insurance policy.

How to Buy Renter's Insurance: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COvw1h_Mbr4&feature=relmfu

This one minute, 50 second video explains the steps involved in purchasing a renter's insurance policy.

Insurance Fraud Video (CNET): http://cnettv.cnet.com/insurance-fraud/9742-1_53-50036636.html

This two-minute video is a television news segment about how health insurance fraud is committed.

Insurance Fraud Video (CBS Evening News): http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57367081/scammers-cash-in-on-car-accidents/?tag=mncol;lst;3

This three minute, 18 second video is a television news segment about how auto insurance fraud is committed.

Investing

Web Sites

American Association of Individual Investors (AII): <http://www.aaii.com/>

This is the Web site for AII, a national organization that provides investment information to its members and consumers.

Annuities (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC): <http://www.sec.gov/answers/annuity.htm>

This Web site explains the different types of annuities and provides a link to more information about variable annuities.

Better Investing (National Association of Investors Corporation): <http://www.betterinvesting.org>

This is the Web site of the national organization that helps people organize and maintain local investment clubs.

Beware of Investment Fraud: <http://www.usa.gov/topics/consumer/scams-fraud/investment.shtml>

This Web page from USA.gov describes common “red flags” of investment fraud schemes.

Bond Rating (Investopedia): <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bondrating.asp#axzz2345s7vD2>

This Web page defines what a bond rating is and explains the letters used by rating agencies to indicate credit quality.

Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC):
<http://www.sec.gov/answers/etf.htm>

This Web site explains what ETFs are and how to buy them and provides dozens of links to additional SEC resources.

FINRA BrokerCheck: <http://www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/>

This Web site describes a free tool for investors to research the backgrounds of FINRA-registered brokerage firms and financial advisors. FINRA is the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

FINRA Investor Education Modules: <http://www.finrafoundation.org/resources/education/modules/>

This Web site contains 11 modules on topics such as key investment concepts and safeguarding investments.

Invest Wisely: An Introduction to Mutual Funds (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission):
<http://www.sec.gov/investor/pubs/inwsmf.htm>

This Web site provides a detailed description of characteristics and types of mutual funds and mutual fund terms.

Investing for Your Future (IFYF) Home Study Course: www.investing.rutgers.edu and
<http://www.extension.org/pages/10984/investing-for-your-future>

IFYF is a free Cooperative Extension 11-module basic investing home study course with monthly message updates.

Investment Company Institute (ICI): <http://www.ici.org/>

This Web site of ICI, the national association of U.S. investment companies, includes investor education resources.

Investment Risk Tolerance Quiz (Rutgers Cooperative Extension): <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/riskquiz/>

This 13-question quiz has been found to be a reliable tool to assess users' investment risk tolerance level. Users receive a score and an interpretation of it to help them make investment decisions.

Managing Investment Risk (FINRA):

<http://www.finra.org/Investors/SmartInvesting/AdvancedInvesting/ManagingInvestmentRisk/>

This Web site explains the different types of risks that are associated with investing.

Morningstar: <http://www.morningstar.com>

Morningstar is a Web site that provides information and performance analyses of mutual funds and other securities.

Mutual Fund Education Alliance: <http://www.mfea.com/>

This mutual fund trade association Web site includes fund ratings and articles on a wide variety of investment topics.

Mutual Fund Prospectus (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission):

<http://www.sec.gov/answers/mfprospectustips.htm>

This Web page describes two types of fund prospectuses (statutory and summary) and the information they contain.

Net Worth Calculation Worksheet: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/pdfs/networthcalcworksheet.pdf>.

This is a downloadable "paper and pencil" worksheet for users to calculate their net worth.

Net Worth Calculation Spreadsheet: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money> (see Microsoft Excel Financial Templates)

This is a downloadable Excel spreadsheet with pre-programmed formulas for users to calculate their net worth.

North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA): <http://www.nasaa.org/>

The NASAA Web site can be used to locate contact information for state securities regulators.

Smart Money (Wall Street Journal): www.smartmoney.com

This magazine-like Web site provides information on a wide variety of personal finance and investment topics.

Stocks (FINRA): <http://www.finra.org/Investors/SmartInvesting/ChoosingInvestments/Stocks/>

This FINRA fact sheet provides a comprehensive overview of features and types of common stock.

Treasury Direct: <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/>

This is the federal government Web site for the purchase of U.S. savings bonds and Treasury securities.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission: www.sec.gov

This is the Web site of the federal government agency charged with protecting investors against fraud.

Yahoo! Finance: <http://finance.yahoo.com>

A comprehensive Web site for personal finance information including daily investment performance data.

Calculators

Annuity Calculator (MoneyChimp): http://www.moneychimp.com/calculator/annuity_calculator.htm

This Web site helps users calculate the annual payout for an annuity using data for three variables that users input.

Asset Allocation: Fix Your Mix (CNN Money):

<http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/assetallocwizard/assetallocwizard.html>

Users input data about their time frame and risk tolerance and receive suggested asset allocation weightings.

Dollar Cost Averaging Calculator (American Century Investments):

https://www.americancentury.com/calculator/dollar_cost_averaging_calculator.jsp

Users input the amount of their monthly investment and monthly share prices to calculate an average share price.

Investment Return Calculator (AARP): http://www.aarp.org/money/investing/investment_return_calculator/

Users can input data about their investments and receive a projection of the amount that their money will grow to.

Rule of 72 (Calculators): <http://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/04/040104.asp#axzz2345s7vD2>

This Web site contains calculators to estimate the time or interest rate required for a sum of money to double.

Taxable vs. Tax-Advantaged Savings? Calculator: <http://www.calcxml.com/do/inv07>

This calculator can determine the future value of taxable and tax-deferred investments based on inputted data.

Videos

Elder Investor Fraud: A National Epidemic (Investor Protection Trust):

<http://www.investorprotection.org/learn/?fa=eiffeVideo>

This video describes the problem of elder investment fraud and common ways that older adults are defrauded.

How Mutual Funds Work: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8tK6LuOP3E&feature=topics>

This one minute, 44 second video explains how mutual funds operate, how they are bought, and their advantages.

Introduction to Bonds: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svOsKnWIW-g>

This one minute, 47 second video explains characteristics of bonds and how they are issued to investors.

Investing Money in Plain English: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaPfs1WY9QM>

This “whiteboard” format video provides an explanation of the risks and potential benefits of investing money.

Stocks vs. Bonds (Investopedia): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuIAscSa0p4>

This one minute, 56 minute video explains the characteristics of and differences between stocks and bonds.

What are Stocks?; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrGp4ofULzQ>

This one minute, 25 second video explains characteristics of stocks and how they are bought and sold.

Retirement Planning

Web Sites

American Savings Education Council (ASEC): <http://www.choosetosave.org>

This Web site contains information about planning and saving for retirement and related financial topics. It is hosted by ASEC, a national coalition of public- and private-sector organizations.

Center for Retirement Research (Boston College): <http://crr.bc.edu/>

This Web site is a good source of information about retirement topics and research findings about retirement.

Delaying Retirement But Not Your Retirement Dreams:

https://www2.troweprice.com/iws/wps/wcm/connect/d2edab0046d7abf0a87eb899d35c25cc/0477923_P1.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=d2edab0046d7abf0a87eb899d35c25cc

This T. Rowe Price article explains how people can start living their retirement dreams while they are still working by starting to do things on their “bucket list” while working a few additional years.

403(b) Wise: <http://www.403bwise.com/>

This Web site contains information about tax-deferred 403(b) retirement savings plans.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs): <http://www.irs.gov/retirement/article/0,,id=111413,00.html>

This Web site contains an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) fact sheet with frequently-asked questions about IRAs.

Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC): <http://www.pbgc.gov/>

This Web site provides information about the federal government agency that guarantees certain benefits to eligible private sector workers whose employer’s defined benefit pension is not financially sound.

Plan Well, Retire Well: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/eb141/>

This University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Web site features frequent blog posts on retirement planning topics.

Planning For a Secure Retirement: <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/retirement/>

This Purdue University Cooperative Extension Web site is an entire retirement planning course that is broken down into ten modules with additional links to online resources.

Retirement Confidence Survey: <http://www.ebri.org/surveys/rcs/>

The annual Retirement Confidence Survey, sponsored by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), measures workers’ attitudes about retirement and trends in how people are planning for retirement.

Retirement Living Information Center-Taxes By State: <http://www.retirementliving.com/taxes-by-state>

This Web site features a clickable U.S. map that provides state tax data to help retirees make relocation decisions.

Retirement Readiness Rating (R³) Survey: http://www.ebri.org/surveys/rcs/2000/dis_rrr.cfm

The R³ survey provides a personalized assessment of how prepared people are to retire.

Social Security: <http://www.ssa.gov/>

This is the Social Security Web site home page where users can find links for forms and publications, locate a Social Security office, and apply for retirement benefits online.

Social Security Benefit Estimate Web Site: <http://www.ssa.gov/mystatement/>

This Social Security Web link allows users to obtain a personalized retirement benefit estimate online.

Uniform Distribution Table for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs):

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/ira-table.asp>

This online fact sheet from Rutgers Cooperative Extension shows the appropriate divisors for taxpayers over age 70½ to use to withdraw the correct RMD amount from tax-deferred retirement savings plans.

Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER): <https://www.wiserwomen.org/>

This Web site contains information about retirement planning topics that is especially targeted toward women.

Calculators

AARP Retirement Calculator: http://www.aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/retirement_calculator/

This online calculator uses data inputted by users to provide an analysis of their preparation for retirement.

Compound Interest Calculator: http://www.moneychimp.com/calculator/compound_interest_calculator.htm

This calculator from MoneyChimp shows what a certain amount of principal (i.e., investment deposit) will grow to at a specific interest rate over a specific number of years.

Life Expectancy Calculators: <http://www.northwesternmutual.com/learning-center/the-longevity-game.aspx> (*The Longevity Game*, Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company) and

<http://gosset.wharton.upenn.edu/mortality/per1/CalcForm.html> (*How Long Will I Live?*, Wharton School) and

http://www.msrs.state.mn.us/info/Age_Cal.html (*Life Expectancy Calculator*, Minnesota State Retirement System).

All three calculators include questions about users' personal health and lifestyle.

Social Security Life Expectancy Calculator: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/population/longevity.html>

This calculator shows the average number of additional years that a person is expected to live based only on their age and gender. Lifestyle factors, health status, and family health history are not considered.

The Ballpark Estimate: <http://www.choosetosave.org/ballpark/>

The *Ballpark Estimate* is a simple planning tool that provides a rough estimate of the amount of money someone needs to save to meet their retirement savings goal.

Video

Ready for Retirement: How Much Money Do You Need?:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhVhESLR5Bk&feature=related>

This 4-minute video describes the basics of the financial planning process and things retirees should consider.

Saving

Web Sites

America Saves: <http://www.americasaves.org/>

The *America Saves* program Web site encourages individuals to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. The E-Wealth Coach Articles page of the *America Saves* site <http://americasaves.org/for-savers/21> contains an archive of articles written by financial experts about building wealth and saving money. The *America Saves Week* Web site <http://www.americasavesweek.org/> provides information for both individual savers and campaign coordinators.

Feed the Pig: <http://www.feedthepig.org/>

This Web site uses a humorous cartoon pig character, Benjamin Bankes, to promote saving for financial goals.

Financial Goal-Setting Worksheet: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/pdfs/goalsettingworksheet.pdf>

This one-page Rutgers Cooperative Extension worksheet can help users to calculate savings needed for financial goals.

Frugal Living (About.com): <http://frugalliving.about.com/>

This Web site provides information about reducing living expenses to free up money to save.

Save and Invest.org (FINRA Foundation): <http://www.saveandinvest.org/>

This Web site provides information on saving and investment topics including emergency funds and goal-setting.

Saving vs. Investing (FinancialWeb): <http://www.finweb.com/financial-planning/saving-vs-investing.html>

This Web page provides a good explanation of the differences between saving and investing.

Small Steps to Health and Wealth™: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/sshw/>

This Web site describes small steps that people can take to improve their health and save and invest money.

Calculator

1% More Savings Calculator (New York Times): <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/03/24/your-money/one-pct-more-calculator.html>

This calculator shows how much someone can accumulate by increasing savings by 1% or more a year.

Videos

Savingsman Public Service Announcements (EBRI): <http://www.choosetosave.org/psaplayer/index.html>

This Web page contains links to 15- and 30-second PSAs that promote the value of saving money for retirement.

The Pros and Cons of Saving and Investing (ING Tutorial):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DBdWeTxXeU&feature=related>

This two- minute video explains saving versus investing with an analogy to a race between a tortoise and a hare.

Free Financial Education Curricula

Building Your Future™ (The Actuarial Foundation):

<http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/youth/getonthelist.shtml>

This Web site provides information about how to order a free 3-book high school personal finance curriculum.

Family Economics and Financial Education (University of Arizona FEFE): <http://www.fefe.arizona.edu/>

This Web site includes information about training workshops for teachers and free ready-to-teach lesson plans.

Hard Core Financial Education Boot Camp (Rutgers Cooperative Extension and NJ Coalition for Financial Education): <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/money/bootcamp/>

This Web site contains videos and PowerPoint slides for a full-day financial education training program for teachers. Printed PowerPoint handouts to accompany the videotaped presentations can be downloaded free of charge.

Learning, Earning, and Investing for a New Generation (CEE): <http://www.hsfpp.org/>

This Council for Economic Education Web site includes curriculum materials (downloadable activities and visuals) for 21 personal finance lessons on saving, investing, and related topics. Print materials are also available for purchase.

Money Matters Pro (NY Public Library): <https://sites.google.com/a/nyppl.org/money-matters/home/curriculum>

This Web site contains annotated PowerPoint presentations, activities, and online resource lists for 11 personal finance programs for adults. The workshops were developed to provide training to library staff on personal finance resources.

Money Skill (AFSA Education Foundation): <http://www.moneyskill.org/>

The Web site includes a demo and information about Money Skill, a free online personal finance course for young adults. The high school version contains 36 modules, with pre- and post-tests, and covers key financial concepts. There is also a middle school version with 12 modules. The course is aligned with national Jump\$Start Coalition standards.

Money Smart for Young Adults (FDIC): <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/young.html>

This Web site provides information about the FDIC youth curriculum and how to order it on a CD free of charge.

NEFE Financial Workshop Kits: <http://www.financialworkshopkits.org/>

This Web site provides free downloadable curriculum materials for adult financial education workshops including PowerPoint slides, scripts, handouts, and other resources. Materials are organized by topic area and audience.

NEFE High School Financial Planning Program®: <http://www.hsfpp.org/>

In the “Get Materials” section of this National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) Web site, educators can order print materials (six student workbooks) and download or view online resources.

Practical Money Skills for Life: https://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/foreducators/lesson_plans/highschool.php

This Web site from Visa provides links to a free downloadable 22-lesson personal finance curriculum for grades 9-12. Lesson plans are also available for grades Pre K-2, 3-6, and 7-8.

For lists of additional free financial education resources, see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/fl/finlitk12.asp> and <http://www.dfi.wa.gov/financial-education/educators-high.htm>.