RISE: Make Your Plan Possible

Financial Aid Lesson Plan Outline

Primary Outcome

Move students closer to completing FAFSA and submitting a complete RISE Scholarship application.

Purpose

This lesson helps students prepare to pay for college or training by getting organized, understanding school-related costs, learning how financial aid works, and taking concrete steps toward FAFSA and RISE. The lesson emphasizes preparation and follow-through rather than teaching every detail of financial aid.

Learning Objectives

- Identify information, accounts, and documents needed for college, financial aid, scholarship, and future job applications.
- Identify common education and training costs.
- Distinguish among grants, scholarships, and federal student loans.
- Explain the basic FAFSA and Florida financial aid process.
- Describe the RISE Scholarship and identify remaining application requirements.
- Identify completed financial aid tasks and determine one next action.

Guiding Question

What can I do now to make paying for college or training more manageable?

Materials

- RISE: Make Your Plan Possible slide deck
- Facilitator Guide
- Future Planning Worksheet
- Sample Postsecondary Cost Comparison
- My Future Folder Quick Setup
- FAFSA & FFAA Process Guide
- RISE Readiness Checklist
- Additional Financial Supports

Language Note: College and School

Throughout this lesson, “college” and “school” may be used interchangeably as student-friendly shorthand for education or training after high school. “College” may include a technical or trade school, Florida College System institution/state college, state university, or other eligible postsecondary program. Facilitators may adjust the wording to reflect the options their students are considering.

1. Prepare Before You Apply

Students begin by connecting education or training after high school to their future goals and identifying the basic information and organization needed to pursue those opportunities. They establish or review systems for personal email, account access, important documents, school information, and long-term file storage so they are prepared for college, financial aid, scholarship, and future job applications.

2. Understand the Cost

Students explore common expenses associated with education and training after high school, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment, uniforms, testing, certifications, and other program-specific costs. The lesson reinforces that the total cost varies by school and program and that planning requires looking beyond tuition alone.

3. Understand Ways to Pay

Students are introduced to grants, scholarships, and federal student loans and examine the basic differences among them, including repayment, eligibility, award limits, and renewal requirements. Students also learn that financial aid may come from multiple sources and that they should consider the full cost of attendance before accepting or declining aid.

4. Understand Financial Aid

Students examine the major steps involved in applying for federal and Florida financial aid, including account creation, contributors, FAFSA submission and follow-up, the Florida Financial Aid Application, and Bright Futures. The emphasis is on understanding the process, recognizing deadlines, and knowing where to get help when a step is unclear.

5. Apply Financial Aid Knowledge to RISE

Students use RISE as a concrete example of how scholarship opportunities fit within a larger financial aid plan. They review eligibility, required information and documents, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation scholarship benefit, eligible in-state use, and how RISE may work alongside other forms of financial aid. Students also begin or assess their progress toward a complete application.

6. Move From Planning to Action

Students review their progress across college applications, FAFSA, Florida aid, RISE, and related preparation tasks. They identify what is complete, what remains unfinished, who can help, and the next action they need to complete within their own timeline.

Assessment / Evidence of Learning

Student understanding is demonstrated through discussion, use of the lesson tools and checklists, and completion of the final action-planning process. By the end of the lesson, students should be able to identify major financial aid steps, recognize at least one remaining FAFSA or RISE task, and name a specific next action, source of support, and target completion date.

Differentiation & Support

Coordinators may adjust examples, discussion depth, pacing, and student activities based on grade level, prior knowledge, postsecondary plans, and individual student needs. Provide information in multiple formats when useful and allow students to respond verbally, in writing, or through discussion. Students in earlier grades may focus more heavily on preparation and awareness, while students closer to graduation may spend more time on active FAFSA, scholarship, and application steps.