A training evaluation was disseminated in October 2009 using Survey Monkey, an e-based research company that is accessible to all internet users. The survey was designed to examine how educators viewed the training they attended and how they are applying the information to their courses. The survey was distributed to educators (251) who attended either the 2009 National Conference, a 3-day training in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Maryland, or a 1-day training in Maryland and provided the project with an accurate email address. A total of 72 (29%) people responded to the survey. The respondents represented educators that were 94% female, with an average of 16 years teaching experience. To pay for the training, 51.4% of attendees received funding from their school or organization to attend.

Among those trained by FEFE in summer 2008, 78 educators completed the survey indicating they will impact 9,574 students using the FEFE curriculum during the 2009-2010 academic year!
When asked to identify all features of the curriculum which make it effective, the following was identified.

- Activity-based (98.5%)
- Limited preparation time (82.4%)
- FEFE materials always available on the FEFE Web site (92.6%)
- Lessons may be modified to fit a variety of classroom environments (83.8%)
- Multiple facilitation methods (77.9%)

Respondents had minimal feedback when asked to identify how the curriculum could be improved. Many noted that the Web site organization of the lesson plans was confusing. As a result of this feedback (as well as other survey feedback), FEFE developed a new Website with an easier way to navigate through the lesson plans.
The survey asked respondents a series of open-ended questions about improvements to FEFE training, curriculum, Web site, etc. Some general trends were noted.

- Continually keeping the curriculum up-to-date and providing emails on what has been updated.
- An easier to navigate Web site.
- Individuals would like specific parts of the trainings to cater to veteran FEFE users and parts that are for middle school verses high school educators.
- Easier coding system for lesson plans.
- Educators would like a way to comment on individual lesson plans and provide what they would like modified.
- Educators would like a way to keep in touch after the trainings—a bulletin board or listserv.
- Put lesson plan and associated resources together in one link. Ability to download more than one item at a time.
- An online training component for teachers who are unable to attend the training. Maybe a tutorial or video with tips and tricks.
- Ability to edit materials, especially the point values of assessments.
- Assessments in a digital format for students to take online.

Lesson plan ideas:
- Interactive Online Checking Account/Bill Paying Simulation
- Personal Balance Sheets
- Social Security—retirement options
- More regarding Economics
- Gambling
- More Life In characters
- Cell Phones

Seventy-four percent of the individuals surveyed stated that they have observed changes in their students’ money management behaviors after teaching the FEFE curriculum.

Over 420 individuals have been impacted from the training participants disseminating FEFE information to their colleagues! Most receiving information were FCS educators as well as business educators and district coordinators.

Additional Professional Development

We asked participants whether or not they would be interested in receiving additional professional development from FEFE and had a very positive response.

- 26 individuals were interested in taking a 1-2 day refresher course, especially if it was local.
- 23 individuals were interested in attending the national conference either for the first time, or as a returning attendee.
- 14 individuals would be very excited to take an online course, especially if it was for credit.
- 10 individuals were interested in receiving certification or masters credit for attending FEFE trainings.

One hundred percent of trained individuals would most definitely, or absolutely, recommend the FEFE training to another educator.

One hundred percent of respondents were interested in some form of additional training.

Ninety-four percent of respondents were interested in some form of additional training.

I have noticed that test scores were MUCH better than years past and the kids are having MUCH more fun this year!! It makes me feel good! I have even heard them tell other students about the fun Jenga review and how it helped them.

—AR Educator

We purchased the supplemental activities to use this year and it has really livened up the classtime!! The kids really get engaged when they are having fun too!! Love the constantly updated curriculum also. Applying for a $1,000 Financial Teacher of the Year in our state using FEFE!!!

—OK Educator

To view a copy of the Fall 2009 Educator’s Survey, click this link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm= mHoFhuuhg3OBMmMTaxeBbA_3d_3d.