

The icon depicts a blue-bordered report card with a red 'A+' grade in the top left corner and three horizontal lines representing a checklist or score scale.

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

THIRD EDITION • 2023-2024



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The Nation's Report Card on Financial Literacy, 2023

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Introduction

We are a nation in crisis—our schools are graduating students who are lacking financial knowledge. By failing to teach kids how to make sound financial decisions, our schools are dimming not only their potential, but our country's economy. Financial illiteracy threatens the safety of our nation and leads to unemployment, stress, and in some cases suicide. The issue is overwhelming: only 57% of adults in the United States are financially literate.¹

The financial reality of our country is a reflection of our schools' failure to prepare and educate students in personal finance and decision-making.

- As of April 2022, one quarter of non-retired Americans indicate they have no retirement savings or pension²
- As of 2022, the average American household has \$101,915 of debt³
- As of 2023, Americans owe \$1.11 trillion in credit card debt⁴
- As of 2022, only 68% of Americans could cover an unexpected \$400 expense using cash or its equivalent⁵
- As of July 2023, experts estimate that households that were able to build up excess savings during the pandemic will exhaust them by the third quarter of this year.⁶
- As of January 2021, 14% of Americans say they wiped out their emergency savings since the start of the pandemic, and one in three Americans have decreased or stopped their retirement savings altogether.⁷
- As of January 2023, 45% of Americans say their household financial situation worsened since the pandemic⁸
- Household debt sits at a total of \$17.13 trillion (as of 2023)⁹
- Total student loan debt in the U.S. reached a record high of \$1.595 trillion in 2021—an increase of about \$25.4 billion since 2020.¹⁰

Each year, Americans graduate high schools without knowledge of the most basic and crucial of life skills: how to keep a budget, file taxes, open and maintain a bank account, and save for retirement. One in five adults have student loan debt, totaling \$1.595 trillion, yet most schools never teach students about interest rates and the economic value, or return on investment, of postsecondary studies or

¹ https://gflec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/3313-Finlit_Report_FINAL-5.11.16.pdf?x37292

² <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2019-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2018-retirement.htm>

³ <https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/research/average-american-household-debt/>

⁴ <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/average-credit-card-debt-household/>

⁵ <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2022-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2021-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.html>

⁶ <https://fortune.com/2023/08/16/americans-savings-nearly-depleted-sf-fed-study/>

⁷ <https://www.msnbc.com/know-your-value/feature/46-million-americans-wiped-out-their-emergency-savings-during-pandemic-ncna1254073>

⁸ <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/average-credit-card-debt-household/>

⁹ <https://wallethub.com/edu/d/household-debt-report/120725>

¹⁰ <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/state-of-student-loan-debt/>



training. 27% of college students with credit card debt admit to already owing over \$2,000, yet most schools never teach students about the costs and benefits of credit cards.¹¹

The consequences of financial illiteracy go far beyond poor financial decisions and habits. Financial illiteracy threatens the lives of our children as they enter adulthood.

- Studies have found that stressful life events related to financial issues are one of the most robust predictors of suicide attempts.¹²
- Domestic violence occurs more often when a couple is experiencing financial stress¹³
- Those with high financial stress are twice as likely to report poor overall health and four times more likely to complain of headaches and depression¹⁴

Many argue that it is solely the parents' responsibility to teach their children financial literacy. However, 41% of parents report reluctance in talking about money management with their children.¹⁵ Financial education is a vital component of K-12 education. Schools must protect the future of our country by stepping in and preparing financially literate graduates.

We are happy to report that much progress has been made since our initial findings in 2019. There is clearly momentum building around financial literacy instruction as we see 23 states and/or territories have moved up at least one letter grade since our last report in 2021. While it is encouraging to see states make financial literacy more of a priority, there is still room for improvement.

The American Public Education Foundation believes that financial literacy begins in the classroom at an early age. We believe in the ability and power of public schools to produce prepared, financially literate students. This report provides insight into how each state currently fails, or succeeds, in providing K-12 personal finance instruction with the hope that all states will follow the lead of those achieving high marks in order to change the course of our nation's financial illiteracy crisis.

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¹¹ <https://money.usnews.com/credit-cards/articles/survey-46-of-students-with-credit-cards-have-debt>

¹² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25559346/>

¹³ <https://now.uiowa.edu/2016/04/are-money-problems-and-violence-related>

¹⁴ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brettwhysel/2018/06/27/3-vicious-cycles/#45737ac1540d>

¹⁵ <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/t-rowe-price-parents-putting-on-a-financial-facade-are-more-reluctant-to-discuss-money-with-their-kids-301195248.html>



The Nation's Report Card on Financial Literacy was created by the American Public Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to help protect America's economic and national security interests through programs and services that support high-quality public education. We serve the interests of America's public schoolchildren – our nation's future leaders. The Foundation believes in the power of public education to transform lives, grow economies, and strengthen America.

This report card was developed by David A. Pickler, Executive Director; Cassie Lynn Foote, Deputy Executive Director; Cameron Spann, Chief Communications Officer; with support from research assistants Catrina Curtis; Amanda Prewitt; Emily Ray; Jonathan Tran.

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The **American Public Education Foundation's Nation's Report Card on Financial Literacy** grades each state in the United States, and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, in terms of K-12 financial education. These grades are based on current state-wide requirements, standards, and curriculum for personal finance.

In order to achieve financially literate high school graduates, a state should have personal finance components embedded into K-12 standards, for each grade or grade band, and should ensure that each high school graduate has successfully completed a personal finance-specific course near the end of their secondary school career. It is important to have state-wide and grade-specific financial literacy standards in Grades K-8. By having specific standards for each grade, the state ensures that the concepts are taught in each individual grade, rather than just at the end of a band of multiple grades. Financial literacy is a life-long process, which must begin in kindergarten, and continue throughout a student's public-school career, in order to lay the foundation for financially literate citizens. The American Public Education Foundation also endorses a stand-alone personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, as opposed to embedding financial literacy into another required course for high school graduation, such as economics. A stand-alone course provides more direct instruction time for students and ensures that each graduating student has completed robust financial literacy training. It is also important that this course be required near the end of a student's high school career, rather than earlier on, as specific concepts, such as student loans or taxes, are more applicable to older students. Any extra state efforts in financial literacy, such as dedicated websites, state councils, and state-wide assessments, further promote financially literate students.

Methodology. The research used to determine each state's current delivery of K-12 financial literacy instruction came from multiple sources. State department of education websites, high school course catalogs, and state legislature and legislation databases were used to determine financial literacy high school requirements, K-12 standards, and state rules and regulations. These data were compiled and evaluated in order to determine a grade for the status of financial literacy instruction in each state, consisting of an analysis as well as significant accomplishments and areas that need improvement. It is important to note that local districts and schools may provide more financial literacy instruction than prescribed by the state, which is not reflected in the state grades. This information was current as of July 6, 2021. Although extensive effort was made to search all data thoroughly, the grades were determined based on online available information, as well as requested information from state boards of education, if necessary, meaning a grade could be based on incomplete information.

As a brief and easy-to-read overview of K-12 financial literacy instruction in each state, significant accomplishments and areas that need improvement are at the top of each analysis.

Each state analysis begins with the statewide high school graduation requirements in relation to financial literacy. For example, a state may require students to take a stand-alone personal finance course or to take a course like economics embedded with personal finance concepts. The analysis



includes a link to that course's standards, if available, as well as other curriculum or resources provided for the course by the state department of education. Any relevant legislation or state board of education decisions regarding the high school requirements are summarized.

Next, financial literacy in K-8 instruction is summarized in each state analysis. Relevant standards are linked as well as relevant state legislation or state board of education decisions.

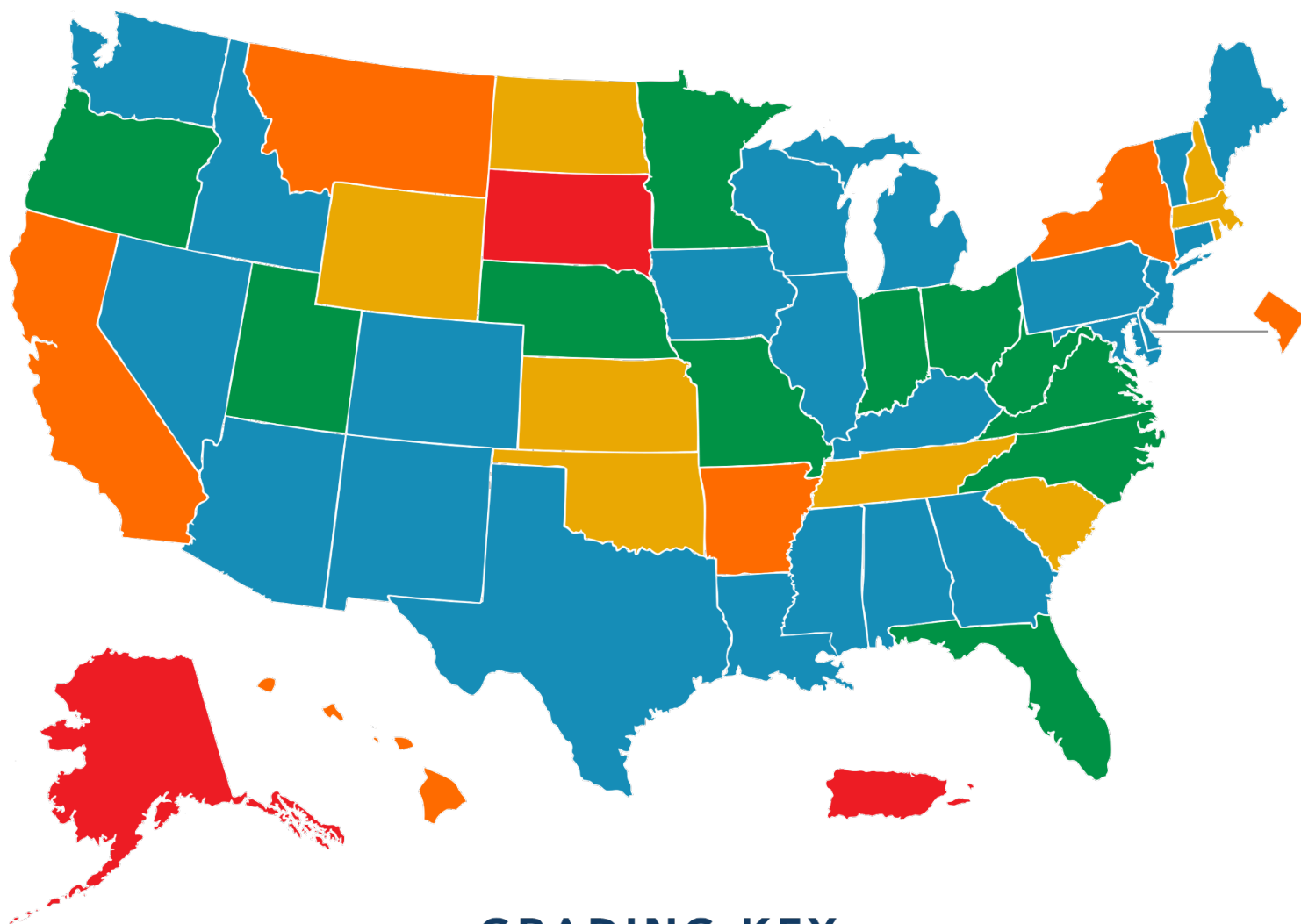
As a form of "extra credit," any additional financial literacy resources or curriculum provided by the state department of education are linked. Some states provide dedicated webpages or websites to promote financial literacy instruction and educational resources. Some states also assess their students state-wide in personal finance, which ensures instruction as well as evaluation. Also, notable efforts in financial literacy K-12 education by the state or state department of education are summarized.

The full state analysis is used to determine the state's grade for financial literacy instruction. An "A" state is considered to provide the ideal financial literacy instruction. In order to receive an "A," a state must ensure financial literacy instruction in each grade, K-12. This includes requiring the completion of a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation as well as financial literacy standards for each grade, K-8. In order to receive a "B," a state must deliver above average financial literacy instruction. A "B" state either requires a course that is embedded with personal finance concepts for high school graduation, or has specific high school financial literacy standards, and has K-8 financial literacy standards, ensuring financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 but not through a stand-alone personal finance course. A "C" state is considered average. In order to receive a "C," a state must either require a course that is embedded with personal finance concepts for high school graduation or have financial literacy standards or requirements for high school and have financial literacy standards for most grades in Grades K-8. In order to receive a "D," a state must be below average, only providing some financial literacy instruction in K-12. A "D" state may require financial literacy instruction in high school but not in K-8, or vice versa, or may provide some financial literacy instruction through Grades K-12 but not in each grade. An "F" state does not require or guarantee any financial literacy instruction from grades K-12.

A	State must ensure financial literacy instruction in each grade, K-12. This includes requiring the completion of a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation as well as financial literacy standards for each grade or grade band, K-8.
B	State must deliver above average financial literacy instruction. A "B" state either requires a course that is embedded with personal finance concepts for high school graduation, or has specific high school financial literacy standards, and has K-8 financial literacy standards, ensuring financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 but not through a stand-alone personal finance course.
C	State must either require a course that is embedded with personal finance concepts for high school graduation or have financial literacy standards or requirements for high school and have financial literacy standards for most grades in Grades K-8.
D	State may require financial literacy instruction in high school but not in K-8, or vice versa, or may provide some financial literacy instruction through Grades K-12 but not in each grade.
F	State does not require or guarantee any financial literacy instruction from grades K-12.

**THE NATION'S
REPORT CARD**
ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

STATES' GRADES BY COLOR



GRADING KEY





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Personal finance and economics standards in grades K-12 and required high school stand-alone personal finance course

Previously, Florida required a one-half credit economics course for high school graduation. The course, Economics with Financial Literacy, contained personal finance components and instruction. However, in May 2019, Florida passed House Bill 7071, which removes financial literacy from the required economics course and instead mandates that all schools offer a financial literacy course as an elective, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. The bill was signed by the Governor in June 2019.¹⁶ While this change was intended to provide more concentrated financial literacy instruction as a stand-alone course, in reality, it results in less students being exposed to financial literacy. Previously every student, regardless of which courses they chose to take, received some financial literacy instruction through the required economics course. After the passage of that legislation, even though each school offers a financial literacy course, students would only receive financial literacy instruction if they chose to take the elective course.

Florida has an extensive legislative history regarding financial literacy instruction. Bills which would make a stand-alone personal finance course a high school graduation requirement have been considered, and even passed by one of two chambers, in recent years. The late Senator Dorothy L. Hukill, who passed away in fall of 2018, sponsored many of the bills and made financial literacy instruction a major priority. In 2019, Senate Bill 114, which would similarly add a personal finance course for graduation, was named the “Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act” in honor of the senator’s efforts in financial literacy. The bill died on calendar in May of 2019.¹⁷ However, in March of 2022, the Dorothy L. Hukill Financial Literacy Act passed, requiring a stand-alone half credit course.¹⁸

Regarding K-8 standards for financial literacy, Florida has implemented some financial literacy standards but not to the extent that a student receives financial literacy instruction each school year. Under the Social Studies standards, financial literacy is a strand for Grades 4, 8, and 9-12.¹⁹ Florida’s Next Generation Sunshine State Standards mandate that “Social Studies standards must establish specific curricular content for... financial literacy.”²⁰ Additionally, there are economics standards that align with financial literacy within the K-8 social studies standards.

Florida receives an “A” for guaranteeing financial literacy instruction in grades K-12 and requiring a half credit of personal finance instruction in high school

¹⁶ <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/07071/?Tab=BillHistory>

¹⁷ <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/114/?Tab=BillHistory>

¹⁸ <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1054>

¹⁹ <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/search/Standard>

²⁰ <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/7071/BillText/er/PDF>, pg. 2





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required Financial Literacy Education High School Standards; Required Grades 6-12 financial literacy instruction; Financial Literacy Standards Frameworks; Grades K-6 social studies financial literacy standards, required high school stand-alone personal finance course

Indiana requires that all its students achieve the Financial Literacy Education (FLE) High School Standards by the end of 12th grade. Students may meet these standards through instruction in Business Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, or other available subject areas.²¹

2009 Indiana Public Law 154 (House Bill 1581) mandates that “Each school corporation, charter school, and accredited nonpublic school shall include in its curriculum for all students in grades 6 through 12 instruction concerning personal financial responsibility.” This requirement can be met through integrating financial literacy instruction into curriculum or by conducting a financial literacy seminar. Furthermore, the state board must adopt financial literacy curriculum appropriate for each grade level and as a separate subject or as units incorporated into an appropriate subject.²² The Indiana Department of Education provides a Financial Literacy Standards Framework, Financial Literacy Standards for the end of 8th Grade, and Financial Literacy Standards for the end of 12th Grade under the Academic Standards.²³

In 2023, the Indiana state legislature signed SB35 into law which requires high school students who are expected to graduate in 2027 and onwards to complete a personal financial responsibility course before graduation: “Beginning in 2028, in addition to completing the graduation requirements set forth in this article, an individual must successfully complete instruction on personal financial responsibility, as described in IC 20-30-5-19, to be eligible to graduate.”²⁴

Furthermore, Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies have personal finance standards under the Economics section for Grades K-6, ensuring financial literacy instruction.²⁵

By providing financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 through specific K-12 standards and incorporating the Financial Literacy Education High School standards into a required stand-alone personal finance course, Indiana receives an “A”.

²¹ <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/financial-literacy/highschoolfinanciallit.pdf>

²² http://iga.in.gov/static-documents/8/5/1/c/851c398a/acts_2009.pdf, pg. 1601

²³ <https://www.doe.in.gov/standards/financial-literacy>

²⁴ <https://trackbill.com/bill/indiana-senate-bill-35-financial-literacy/2293725/>

²⁵ <https://www.doe.in.gov/standards/social-studies>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school economics with embedded financial literacy instruction; K-12 social studies financial literacy standards, required high school stand-alone personal finance course

Minnesota instructs each student in financial literacy through its social studies standards. In the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Social Studies 2011, there are standards and benchmarks for either Personal Finance or Economic Reasoning Skills for each specific grade, K-8, and for high school.²⁶ These standards ensure that each Minnesota student receives financial literacy instruction in their K-12 curriculum.

In May 2023, HF2497 was signed into law: “Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business, family and consumer science, social studies, or math.”²⁷

Minnesota provides financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 through its social studies standards and through embedded financial literacy standards in the required high school economics course. In addition, it requires high school financial literacy instruction through a stand-alone course; therefore, it receives a “A”.

²⁶ <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/soc/>

²⁷ https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2497&type=bill&version=5&session=ls93&session_year=2023&session_number=0





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Stand-alone course, Personal Finance required for high school graduation; K-12 financial literacy standards; Personal Finance End-of-Course assessment available

Missouri requires each student to complete a one-half credit stand-alone Personal Finance course for high school graduation. The course can count as an elective, Social Studies, or Practical Arts credit towards graduation requirements.²⁸ The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education updated the Personal Finance Course Level Expectations in Summer 2017, to be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year, which includes seven robust topics on financial literacy.²⁹ There are also Missouri Personal Finance Competencies expected to be met through the course.³⁰ The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has developed and offers a Missouri Personal Finance Curriculum aligned to the Course Level Expectations and Competencies.³¹ The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis has also developed The Tools for Teaching the Missouri Personal Finance Competencies which is a curriculum guide for the Missouri required Personal Finance course, aligned to national and Missouri standards.³²

Students may choose to “test-out” of the Personal Finance course and receive the one-half required credit of personal finance by attaining a score of 90% or higher on the Personal Finance End-of-Course Assessment. Students taking personal finance content as embedded coursework must also take the Personal Finance End-of-Course Assessment. The pass rate is at the discretion of their district. For students who take the stand-alone Personal Finance course, the Personal Finance End-of-Course Assessment is optional.³³

Missouri 2005 House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 resolved “that the Missouri State Board of Education be encouraged to accept the recommendation as prepared by the Missouri Commissioner of Education and the Missouri Taskforce on the High School for coursework in personal finance economics” which calls “for a required course in personal finance economics for graduation.” The Missouri General Assembly previously passed House Bill No. 1973 in 2002 calling for a study “of steps to improve economic and financial education in Missouri schools,” and the Governor signed Executive Order 02-08 calling for the same study.³⁴ The proposed personal finance requirement was approved with the new recommended high school graduation requirements at the October 2005 Missouri State Board of Education Meeting.

²⁸<https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/graduation-requirements-how-many-credits-does-student-need-graduate-0>

²⁹<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/curr-personal-finance-amended-to-work-group-proposed-standards-crosswalk>

³⁰<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/personal-finance-standards>

³¹<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/personal-finance-course-expectations>

³²<https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/tools-for-teaching-the-missouri-personal-finance-competencies#:~:text=The%20Tools%20for%20Teaching%20the,teaching%20specific%20personal%20finance%20content.>

³³<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/assessment/end-course#mini-panel-eoc-assessment6>

³⁴<https://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills051/hlrbillspdf/1720L.02C.pdf>



The Missouri K-5 and 6-12 Social Studies Grade Level Expectations include economics standards for each grade, including personal finance concepts. These help to ensure financial literacy instruction in K-12 curriculum.³⁵

Missouri receives an “A” for ensuring financial literacy instruction from kindergarten through 12th grade, including a required stand-alone personal finance course for graduation and Grades K-12 financial literacy standards embedded into the social studies standards.

³⁵ <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/missouri-learning-standards#mini-panel-mls-standards4>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school financial literacy instruction and stand-alone course; K-12 financial literacy standards; Personal Finance webpage

In the 2021 session, the Nebraska Legislature introduced and passed Legislative Bill 452,³⁶ which establishes the Financial Literacy Act. “Under this bill the State Department of Education (NDE) is required to create and distribute financial literacy curriculum guidelines to all school districts. Each school district must then create and incorporate a financial literacy program into all phases of grades K-12 based on the guidelines from NDE. Such changes shall not change the number of instructional hours or [sic] prescribed for elementary and high school students or the number of instructional hours dedicated to existing curriculum.”³⁷ This bill was amended to add elements of LB 327, including the requirement of a half-credit personal finance course for graduation.³⁸

The Nebraska State Board of Education Social Studies Standards also lists the K-12 social studies standards. Nebraska provides financial literacy standards for grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-8, and high school. Under economics for each grade, financial literacy is a standard with its own specific standards for each grade, respectively.³⁹ This ensures each Nebraska student receives financial literacy in each grade, K-12.

Nebraska also provides a Personal Finance webpage with lesson plans and curricula website links.⁴⁰

Nebraska receives an “A” for financial literacy instruction, as it provides instruction in Grades K-12 through its social studies standards as well as requiring the completion of a personal finance course before graduation.

³⁶ <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/Intro/LB452.pdf>

³⁷ <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/CS/LB452.pdf>

³⁸ https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=44241

³⁹ <https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Nebraska-Social-Studies-Standards-Final-11-2019.pdf>

⁴⁰ <https://www.education.ne.gov/nce/bmit/curriculum/personal-finance/>



North Carolina

- **Significant Accomplishments:** Requires high school course with financial literacy instruction, including a full-credit stand-alone Economics and Personal Finance course required for graduation; K-12 social studies financial literacy standards; Personal Financial Literacy website; Financial Literacy Council

North Carolina requires all students to take a full-credit Economics and Personal Finance course as a requirement to graduate, beginning with the students entering the 9th grade in the 2020-2021 school year. ⁴¹This course has been legislated by N.C. Session Law 2019-82, House Bill 924. ⁴² The North Carolina Board of Education provides standards and objectives for the course that “provide students the opportunity to engage in intensive application of the skills, concepts, processes, and knowledge gained in previous social studies courses and prepare them to be college, career, and civic ready.” ⁴³

2017 Chapter 126 (House Bill 135) requires that “instruction shall be provided in personal financial literacy for all students.” ⁴⁴ Financial literacy is embedded in North Carolina’s K-12 Social Studies standards. The Economic and Financial Literacy strand is in each grade’s North Carolina Social Studies Essential Standards, with specific standards and Clarifying Objectives. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction also provides Social Studies Unpacking Standards and Crosswalks which provide further clarification and resources for each grade’s standards. ⁴⁵

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website has a page dedicated to Personal Financial Literacy. It provides Resources, Best Practices, Curriculum Options, and Financial Webinars for elementary, middle, and secondary grades. The page also provides resources and information for students and parents and community members. ⁴⁶ North Carolina also has a legislated Financial Literacy Council to “monitor and assist the Department of Public Instruction in the coordination of statewide delivery of financial education within the public-school system,” among other duties. ⁴⁷

North Carolina receives an “A” for providing financial literacy instruction from kindergarten through grade 12, including a required stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation. Additionally, North Carolina provides a dedicated site for personal finance resources.

⁴¹ <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/high-school-graduation-requirements#Future-ReadyCourseofStudy22creditsStudentsenteringGrade9in2021-2022-1951>

⁴² <https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H924v7.pdf>

⁴³ <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/11823/open>

⁴⁴ <https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2017/Bills/House/PDF/H135v4.pdf>

⁴⁵ https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/social-studies/standards_1

⁴⁶ <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/social-studies/resources/personal-financial-literacy-resources?authuser=0>

⁴⁷ <https://www.ncleg.gov/enactedlegislation/sessionlaws/pdf/2009-2010/sl2009-265.pdf>



- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school financial literacy course requirement for graduation; K-12 financial literacy standards; Financial Literacy webpage

The Financial Literacy Ohio Learning Standards also include standards for Grades K-12. They are divided into K-3, 4-6, middle grades, and high school bands. “These newly revised and created financial literacy standards help schools understand the essential financial literacy concepts and skills they must teach their students for success in life after high school.” These financial literacy standards help ensure instruction in K-12 curriculum.⁴⁸

The Ohio Department of Education also has a Financial Literacy webpage which “provides information to support educators teaching financial literacy starting in kindergarten and concluding with a high school course that districts may use to teach financial literacy as part of Ohio’s graduation requirements.”⁴⁹

In 2021 Ohio passed SB 1⁵⁰, which requires a ½ credit personal finance course for graduation for all students who enter ninth grade on or after July 1, 2022. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, this bill requires that an educator must have a license validation in financial literacy to provide instruction in financial literacy in high school, but specifies that teachers who are licensed in social studies, family and consumer sciences, or business education can teach financial literacy without earning the additional validation.

Ohio receives an “A” for ensuring financial literacy instruction in kindergarten through 12th grade through its grade-specific financial literacy standards and financial literacy instruction in a required high school course.

⁴⁸ <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Financial-Literacy/Financial-Literacy-Standards/FLFinalStandards060518.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

⁴⁹ <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Financial-Literacy>

⁵⁰ https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/sb1/EN/05/sb1_05_EN?format=pdf





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school financial literacy standards; K-12 social studies financial literacy standards; Task Force on Civics and Financial Education; required high school stand-alone personal finance course

There are ten high school Financial Literacy standards in the Oregon K-12 Social Sciences Academic Content Standards.⁵¹ 2017 Chapter 133 (House Bill 2229) adds to the state education law that “school districts and public charter schools are encouraged to offer students courses or other education opportunities in financial literacy to allow every student who wants to receive instruction in financial literacy to be able to receive the instruction,” which recognizes the importance of financial literacy but does not mandate it.⁵² Until 1997, Oregon required a stand-alone half-credit of personal finance as a high school graduation.⁵³

Financial literacy is fully embedded in the Oregon K-12 Social Sciences Academic Content Standards. There is at least one, if not multiple, specific financial literacy standards for each grade.⁵⁴ This ensures all Oregon students receive financial literacy instruction through their K-12 academic careers.

Oregon legislated a Task Force on Civics and Financial Education through 2007 Chapter 773 (House Bill 2584) in order to “study and make recommendations about how to increase and improve civics and financial education in kindergarten through grade 12 public schools.”⁵⁵ The Task Force released its Final Report and Recommendations in October 2008 in which they recommended including Financial Literacy as an “Essential Skill for an Oregon Diploma” and pursuing “the possible use of the additional credit required in mathematics for personal finance applications,” although no specific actions have been taken on the recommendations.⁵⁶

Until 1997, Oregon required a stand-alone half-credit of personal finance as a high school graduation, but it was removed to make room for other subjects. However, in August 2023, Oregon’s state legislature passed SB3 states, “In order to receive a high school diploma from a school district or public charter school, a student must satisfy the requirements established by the State Board of Education and the school district or public charter school and, while in grades 9 through 12, must complete at least 24 total credits, which must include at least:… (E) One half-credit of personal financial

⁵¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/OregonDiploma/Pages/Credit-Req.aspx>; <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Documents/Adopted%20Oregon%20K-12%20Social%20Sciences%20Standards%205.18.pdf>, pg. 24-25

⁵² https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/lawsstatutes/2017orlaw0133.pdf

⁵³ https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2008/10/personal_finance_urged_for_ore.html

⁵⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Documents/Adopted%20Oregon%20K-12%20Social%20Sciences%20Standards%205.18.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Documents/hb2584.en.pdf>

⁵⁶ <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Documents/cfe-tf-final-report10-1-08.pdf>



education”.⁵⁷ This bill reinstates a standalone personal finance course for high school students in the state of Oregon.

Through its financial literacy social sciences standards, Oregon ensures financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 and has implemented its high school standards into a stand-alone personal finance course required for graduation in order to ensure high school students are receiving the instruction, and thus receives an “A.”

⁵⁷<https://trackbill.com/bill/oregon-senate-bill-3-relating-to-diploma-requirements-declaring-an-emergency/2340633/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required stand-alone General Financial Literacy class for high school graduation; Required passage of financial literacy end-of-course exam for high school graduation; Financial and Economic Literacy Passport

Utah requires the completion of a stand-alone one-half credit course of General Financial Literacy for high school graduation, the first state to do so.⁵⁸ The course is for juniors and seniors and has four strands with multiple standards, providing robust financial literacy instruction.⁵⁹ Students may also fulfill the requirement by completing a one credit Adult Roles and Financial Literacy course, in which four of the eight strands are personal finance concepts.⁶⁰ Furthermore, students may fulfill the credit requirement through completing a one credit Business Math and Personal Finance course, if the instructor is endorsed in General Financial Literacy. The course has eight personal finance standards.⁶¹

2003 Utah Chapter 315 (Senate Bill 154) mandates that “The State Board of Education shall establish rigorous curriculum and graduation requirements” that “include instruction that stresses general financial literacy.”⁶² In June 2004, the Utah State Board of Education approved the General Financial Literacy Core Curriculum, which utilized a stand-alone course. The personal finance requirement went into effect for the graduating class of 2008.⁶³ 2012 Utah Chapter 398 (House Bill 156) adds “a general financial literacy test-out option” to the state graduation requirements.⁶⁴ 2014 Utah Chapter 070 (Senate Bill 40) mandates that school districts “contract with a provider, through a request for proposals process, to develop an online, end-of-course assessment for the general financial literacy course” and requires each student who takes the General Financial Literacy course to be administered the end-of-course assessment. Passing the assessment is not a requirement for graduation.⁶⁵

2008 Utah Chapter 397 (Senate Bill 2) creates an optional Financial and Economic Literacy Passport in the state of Utah. The passport is “a document that tracks mastery of financial and economic literacy concepts and completion of financial and economic activities.” The bill also requires the State Board of Education to “more fully integrate existing and new financial and economic literacy education into instruction in kindergarten through twelfth grade by coordinating financial and economic literacy instruction with existing instruction in other core curriculum areas such as mathematics and social studies.”⁶⁶ The Utah State Board of Education, in partnership with the Utah Education Network, maintains the Finance in the Classroom website, which provides teacher, student, and parent resources. This includes lessons and activities, called Integrated Activities, for each grade, K-12, which can specifically be integrated into Mathematics, Social Studies, or Language Arts. It also provides instructions

⁵⁸ <https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/graduationrequirements?mid=1014&tid=2>

⁵⁹ <https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/0ef7870d-abb3-4efe-aba0-f186609eee9d>

⁶⁰ <https://www.uen.org/core/core.do?courseNum=200117>

⁶¹ <https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/159c65b4-ff5e-46ec-9197-0e983932b0a6>

⁶² <https://le.utah.gov/~2003/bills/sbillenr/SB0154.pdf>, pg. 29

⁶³ <https://schools.utah.gov/file/f2db1bb5-2fdb-4de3-9ec7-124a233882a6>;
<https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/3066656a-d011-475a-84ef-c92bcc358e83>

⁶⁴ <https://le.utah.gov/~2012/bills/hbillenr/hb0156.pdf>

⁶⁵ <https://le.utah.gov/~2014/bills/static/SB0040.html>

⁶⁶ <https://le.utah.gov/~2008/bills/static/SB0002.html>



and resources for completing the Financial and Economic Literacy Passport, which is a combination of in-class and at-home activities, catered to each grade K-12.⁶⁷

Utah has specific financial literacy standards in its Social Studies standards for Grades K-2. While Utah does not have specific personal finance standards or embedded personal finance standards in all its K-8 standards, the Financial and Economic Literacy Passport ensures financial literacy instruction through its financial literacy integration in K-8 Mathematics, Social Studies, and Language Arts.⁶⁸

Utah receives an “A” for providing financial literacy instruction from kindergarten through grade 12, including a required stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation and K-12 financial literacy instruction through the Financial and Economic Literacy Passport. Also, by requiring an end-of-course assessment in financial literacy, Utah can ensure and evaluate its financial literacy instruction.

⁶⁷ <https://financeintheclassroom.org/>

⁶⁸ <https://www.uen.org/core/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation; K-8 financial literacy standards; Teaching Money Virginia website

Virginia requires a stand-alone personal finance course through the requirement of a one credit course in Economics & Personal Finance.⁶⁹ Students may also meet the requirement through a one semester Finance course and one semester Economics course, or through the Virtual Virginia Economics and Personal Finance course.⁷⁰ Nine of the eighteen standards in the Economics and Personal Finance Standards of Learning are personal finance concepts.⁷¹ The requirement was implemented with the graduating class of 2015, adding the one credit requirement. Virginia provides the WISE Personal Finance Certification Test and the Governor’s Challenge in Economics and Personal Finance as optional assessment tools for high school students. Students can obtain a Financial Literacy industry certification through the WISE test.⁷²

Financial literacy-related standards are embedded in the K-8 Virginia History and Social Science Standards of Learning. “Personal finance and economic topics are introduced in kindergarten and spiral throughout the history and social science curriculum through eighth grade.”⁷³ These standards ensure Virginia students receive financial literacy instruction throughout their K-12 educations. 2005 Virginia Chapter 741 (Senate Bill No. 950) mandates that “the Board of Education shall develop and approve objectives for economics education and financial literacy at the middle and high school levels, that shall be required of all students, and shall provide for the systematic infusion of economic principles in the relevant Standards of Learning, and in career and technical education programs.”⁷⁴ Virginia 2009 Chapter 802 (House Bill 2112) also requires that local school boards implement “educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial literacy.”⁷⁵ Virginia is continuing to update these standards and objectives to reflect changes in the financial environment. In 2021, the Virginia legislature voted to add language relating to the gig economy and evolving forms of employment to the list of required objectives for economics education and financial literacy.⁷⁶

Virginia also provides an Economics Education and Financial Literacy: Objectives and Correlations to Mathematics and History and Social Science Standards of Learning and Career and Technical Education Competencies guide, which provides financial literacy standards that correlate to the middle and high school Mathematics, History and Social Science, and Career and Technical Education standards.⁷⁷ There are Career and Technical Education and History and Social Science Frameworks available for Economics and Personal Finance.⁷⁸ Teaching Money Virginia is a website

⁶⁹<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section50/>

⁷⁰<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/economics-personal-finance>

⁷¹<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.virginia.gov%2Fhome%2Fshowpublisheddocument%2F2004%2F637949913539430000&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

⁷²<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/economics-personal-finance>

⁷³<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/economics-personal-finance>

⁷⁴<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?051+ful+CHAP0741+pdf>

⁷⁵<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?091+ful+HB2112ER2>

⁷⁶<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?212+ful+CHAP0025>

⁷⁷http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/economics_personal_finance/objectives.pdf

⁷⁸http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/economics_personal_finance/index.shtml



sponsored by Financial Institutions for Financial Literacy, which provides economics and personal finance resources for Virginia high school teachers, aligned to the Virginia standards and curriculum. Teachers can also submit their own resources to be published on the website.⁷⁹ In addition, the Virginia Department of Education provides financial literacy resources on a dedicated webpage.⁸⁰

Virginia receives an “A” for guaranteeing kindergarten through grade 12 financial literacy instruction, through a stand-alone personal finance course required for high school graduation and through individual grade standards for financial literacy embedded in K-8 history standards.

⁷⁹ <https://vcee.org/free-personal-finance-resources/>

⁸⁰ http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/economics_personal_finance/resources/index.shtml





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school half-credit personal finance course requirement; Financial literacy standards in most K-8 social studies standards

Previously in the West Virginia Education Code, it mandated that “to provide students a basic understanding of personal finance, the state Board shall develop a program of instruction on personal finance which may be integrated into the curriculum of an appropriate existing course or courses for students in secondary schools.”⁸¹ West Virginia required the completion of a one credit Social Studies course, Civics for the Next Generation, or AP Government for high school graduation.⁸² Ten of the 39 standards for high school civics are Personal Finance.⁸³ If students chose to take AP Government and Politics in place of Civics, counties were still required to provide those students with instruction to reach mastery for the Personal Finance Standards.

In March 2023, House Bill 3113 was signed into law: “Beginning with the class of students entering 9th grade in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, each high school student shall complete one-half credit course of study in personal finance during their 11th or 12th grade year as a requirement for high school graduation. The State Board of Education shall develop and issue implementation guidance to local school boards and other education agencies as to curriculum, content matter standards, eligible teacher certification(s), and graduation requirements the course may fulfill before July 1, 2024. Every student shall complete a course in personal finance prior to high school graduation.”⁸⁴

The West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Social Studies has Economics standards for each grade, K-8. Under the Economics standards, “students become financially responsible by examining the consequences of and practicing personal financial decision-making.” There are some personal finance components in the economics standards for Grades K-8.⁸⁵ Additionally, there are specific personal finance standards within the Civics course.

Because it guarantees financial literacy instruction through social studies standards in K-8 grades and a half-credit personal finance course requirement for high school students, West Virginia receives a “A.”

⁸¹ <http://www.wvlegislature.gov/wvcode/ChapterEntire.cfm?chap=18&art=2§ion=7C#2>

⁸² <https://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/Graduation/FactSheetGraduation.pdf>

⁸³ <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/126-044D-2016-09-06-16-42-07-390.docx>

⁸⁴ <https://trackbill.com/bill/west-virginia-house-bill-3113-requiring-high-school-students-to-complete-course-of-study-in-personal-finance/2343717/>

⁸⁵ <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/126-044D-2016-09-06-16-42-07-390.docx>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school course that includes personal finance required for graduation; Some K-8 financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

Alabama had already placed a priority on financial literacy by ensuring each graduate has been exposed to its concepts and its importance by requiring the full credit course, Career Preparedness, as a graduation requirement.⁸⁶ This was implemented by the Alabama State Board of Education at its September 13, 2012 meeting, where it was unanimously adopted to “Replace the Computer Application .5 unit requirement for high school graduation with a .5 unit of Personal Finance/Financial Literacy that can serve as a CTE Course,” beginning with the graduating class of 2017.⁸⁷ In May 2023, HB164 was signed into law: “Beginning with public school students entering ninth grade in the 2024-2025 school year, each student shall complete a course in personal financial literacy and money management before graduation from high school.”⁸⁸ This bill also provides for the creation of an assessment and a provision that assessment results will be shared with the State Department of Education.

In the Curriculum Guide to the Alabama Course of Study for Social Studies Grades K-12, there are personal finance standards and objectives in Grades K, 1, 2, and 7.⁸⁹ This means that personal finance standards are not fully embedded into Alabama’s K-8 standards.

Alabama requires a ½ semester financial literacy course. However, by not having sufficient foundational financial literacy standards in grades, K-8, Alabama receives a “B.”. Alabama needs to implement financial literacy standards during Grades 3-6 and 8, in order to receive an “A.”

⁸⁶ <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/Graduation%20Information/AHSG%20Requirements%20May%202018.pdf>

⁸⁷ <https://www.alsde.edu/sites/boe/SBOE%20Meeting%20Minutes/September%2013%202012.pdf>

⁸⁸ <https://trackbill.com/bill/alabama-house-bill-164-relating-to-public-high-schools-to-require-students-to-complete-a-personal-financial-literacy-and-money-management-course-before-graduation-to-provide-for-the-creation-and-administration-of-a-financial-literacy-examination-and-to-require-the-reporting-of-a-summary-of-examination-results-to-the-state-department-of-education/2404620/>

⁸⁹ <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/ses/Curriculum%20Guides/cgsocialstudies.pdf>

*<https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/cgsocialstudies.pdf>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school economics course with embedded financial literacy instruction; financial literacy standards in K-8 social studies standards; active state council on economic education
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

In Arizona, students are exposed to financial literacy through the one-half credit Economics course required for high school graduation.⁹⁰ 2019 Arizona Chapter 84 (Senate Bill 1184) amended state code to mandate that “the state board shall require at least one-half of a course credit in economics, which shall include financial literacy and personal financial management.”⁹¹ Previously, Arizona code stated that the board “may consider the establishment of a required separate personal finance course for the purpose of the graduation of pupils from high school.”⁹² The Arizona Department of Education includes “Financial Literacy/Personal Finance including but not limited to budgeting, saving, spending, investment, credit, banking, and insurance” as one of the five topics to be covered in “a comprehensive economics course.”⁹³

2013 Senate Bill 1449 amended Arizona code to mandate that “the academic standards prescribed by the state board of education in social studies shall include personal finance” in high school.⁹⁴ Currently, the Economics strand, Financial Literacy/Personal Finance, is covered by standards in Grades 1-3, 5-6, 8, and high school, according to the Arizona Department of Education’s 2018 History and Social Science Standards.⁹⁵ In 2021, Senate Bill 1636 removed the termination date for the state seal of personal finance proficiency program, which recognizes students who “graduate from a school operated by a school district or a charter school located in this state and who have attained a high level of proficiency in personal finance.”⁹⁶

The Arizona Council on Economic Education provides resources to teachers and students and aims to “reach and teach every Arizona student to become financially and economically responsible in work and life.”⁹⁷

Arizona receives a “B” for ensuring some financial literacy instruction in high school through an embedded economics course and in K-8 instruction through social science standards. In order to raise its grade, Arizona must ensure financial literacy instruction in each grade, K-12, through requiring a stand-alone personal finance high school course.

⁹⁰ <https://azsbe.az.gov/resources/graduation-requirements>

⁹¹ <https://legiscan.com/AZ/text/SB1184/2019>

⁹² <https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=http://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00701-01.htm>

⁹³ <https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5bd773021dcb250b94e91702>, pg. 13

⁹⁴ <https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/bills/sb1449h.htm>

⁹⁵ <https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5bd773021dcb250b94e91702>, pg. 5

⁹⁶ <https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/55leg/1R/bills/SB1636S.pdf>, pg. 18

⁹⁷ <https://azecon.org/about-us/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** K-12 math and social studies financial literacy standards; Financial literacy resource bank and newsletter
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require a high school stand-alone personal finance course

Colorado offers a menu of options for local school boards to choose from to constitute graduation requirements. The only required course for high school graduation is Civics/Government, meaning there is no state-wide required financial literacy course or course embedded with personal finance components.⁹⁸ However, Colorado's Education Statute states that "Each school district board of education is strongly encouraged to adopt as part of its district curriculum courses pertaining to financial literacy to be taught in grade-appropriate courses at the elementary, middle, junior high, and high school grade levels... Each school district board of education is further encouraged to adopt successful completion of a course in financial literacy as a graduation requirement."⁹⁹

2008 House Bill 08-1168 mandated that "in the process of revising and adopting the state content standards... the board shall adopt standards for financial literacy."¹⁰⁰ The Colorado Academic Standards subsequently published the Personal Financial Literacy Expectations: Addendum to Social Studies and Mathematics Standards Document in December 2009. These additional standards implement financial literacy instruction in both mathematics and social studies in kindergarten through high school. The four main areas of the additional standards are "Goal Setting, Financial Responsibility and Careers; Planning, Income, Saving and Investing; Using Credit; Risk Management and Insurance."¹⁰¹ A 2021 bill "adds assessing the affordability of higher education and how to budget and pay for higher education, as well as how to manage student loan debt, to the suggested financial literacy curriculum, as well as familiarizing students with the process and required forms to apply for financial aid, grants, and scholarships, including the FAFSA and CASFA" as well as other additional standards and recommendations.¹⁰² These financial literacy standards ensure students are exposed to financial literacy through their entire Colorado school careers.

2008 House Bill 08-1168 also required students to be assessed state-wide in financial literacy, prior to 2015. "The board shall identify the financial literacy standards that are appropriately assessed within a mathematics assessment and shall ensure that the identified standards are assessed within the mathematics assessments administered as part of the systems of assessments."¹⁰³ However, 2015 House Bill 15-1323 removed the statewide requirement for the mathematics assessment, in which

⁹⁸ <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/graduationguidelines>

⁹⁹

https://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2008a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/0073E839636E1F3A872573680059FA3F?Open&file=1168_enr.pdf

¹⁰⁰ https://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/cofinancialliteracy/documents/pfl_addendum.pdf

¹⁰¹

https://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2008a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/0073E839636E1F3A872573680059FA3F?Open&file=1168_enr.pdf

¹⁰² <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1200>

¹⁰³

http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2008a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/0073E839636E1F3A872573680059FA3F?Open&file=1168_enr.pdf



financial literacy was assessed.¹⁰⁴ The state board maintains a resource bank of materials pertaining to financial literacy which is currently available on the Colorado Department of Education's website and includes personal financial literacy standards and resources with links to and information on state and national financial literacy programs and resources as well as a monthly newsletter.¹⁰⁵

Colorado receives a "B" in financial literacy instruction, as it ensures financial literacy instruction in kindergarten through grade 12 through financial literacy standards in math and social studies, but not through a high school stand-alone personal finance course. By encouraging rather than requiring a standalone personal finance course for high school graduation, Colorado fails to raise its grade to an "A."

¹⁰⁴ <https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/digest2015.pdf>, pg. 39

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cofinancialliteracy>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Middle and high school personal finance model curriculums; Online financial literacy resources; requires high school stand-alone personal finance course
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

Connecticut Public Act No. 15-138 (Substitute Senate Bill No. 139) directs that “The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional boards of education in developing instructional programs... The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional board(s) of education to include: ... personal financial management.”¹⁰⁶ The Connecticut Department of Education provides Career Clusters or Career Pathways for both middle and high school. “Courses in Personal Finance or Financial Literacy can be listed appropriately in Programs of Study in the Business Management & Administration, Finance, or Marketing Career Clusters as part of a program of study.”¹⁰⁷ The Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework includes Economic Decision-Making standards for each grade, K-12, but does not specifically cover personal finance.¹⁰⁸

The Connecticut State Department of Education also provides resources and lesson plans online for Personal Finance.¹⁰⁹

In June 2023, the State of Connecticut’s Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly signed SB1165 into law: “Commencing with classes graduating in 2027, and for each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: ... (6) one-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy, which may count towards the requirement described in subdivision (1) of this subsection or as an elective credit. A local or regional board of education may require a student to complete a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment in order to graduate from high school or be granted a diploma.”¹¹⁰ Therefore, it is established that a standalone personal finance course is required for high school graduation in Connecticut.

Connecticut receives a “B,” as it provides financial literacy instruction, through a standalone personal finance course. Grade-specific standards need to be added in K-8 social studies.

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/ACT/pa/pdf/2015PA-00138-R00SB-00319-PA.pdf>

¹⁰⁷ <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Career-and-Technical-Education/Career-and-Technical-Education/Career-Clusters-Pathways-Programs-of-Study/Personal-Finance>

¹⁰⁸ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Social-Studies/ssframeworks.pdf?la=en>

¹⁰⁹ <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Career-and-Technical-Education/Career-and-Technical-Education/Career-Clusters-Pathways-Programs-of-Study/Personal-Finance>

¹¹⁰ <https://trackbill.com/bill/connecticut-senate-bill-1165-an-act-concerning-financial-literacy-instruction/2383977/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** K-12 financial literacy standards by grade bands; State financial literacy taskforce
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

Delaware does not mandate the completion of a personal finance course for high school graduation. However, recent efforts have been made to integrate financial literacy into K-12 curriculum. 2015 Delaware House Joint Resolution No. 4 established a taskforce “to study and make findings and recommendations concerning financial literacy programs and standards, with the intent of developing a regulatory framework that will strengthen financial literacy education in K-12.”¹¹¹ The taskforce developed K-12 academic standards in conjunction with the Delaware Department of Education which were approved by the Delaware Board of Education in January 2018. Four standards (Financial Planning and Decision Making; Money Management; Saving and Investing; Risk Protection) are each covered in Grades K-12, broken into K-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 bands.¹¹² According to the Delaware Department of Education website in 2019, “a timeline for implementation of these standards will be forthcoming once feedback from districts/schools have been collected.”¹¹³ A representative from the Delaware Department of Education shared that districts were initially expected to implement their locally adopted curricula and programs of study in the 2020-21 school year, but the pandemic altered this timeline and districts/charters are expected to begin implementation in the next school year.

In support of these standards, the Delaware Department of Education works with the University of Delaware’s Center for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship (CEEE) “to develop training for teachers, curriculum resources, and models of implementation.”¹¹⁴ The CEEE has a number of programs, such as Bank at School, that support the financial literacy education of elementary and secondary students. There is also a calendar of events pertaining to financial literacy.¹¹⁵

Delaware receives a “B” for ensuring K-12 financial literacy instruction through its financial literacy standards in grade bands, but not through a high school stand-alone personal finance course. In order to receive an “A,” Delaware must add a stand-alone personal finance course requirement.

¹¹¹ <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?legislationId=24568>

¹¹² <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib/DE01922744/Centricity/Domain/40/DE%20FINAL%20K-12%20Fin%20Lit%20Standards%20JAN%202018.pdf>

¹¹³ <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/financialliteracy>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/financialliteracy#:~:text=In%20January%202018%2C%20the%20State,and%20make%20sound%20financial%20decisions>

¹¹⁵ <https://lerner.udel.edu/centers/center-for-economic-education-entrepreneurship/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required stand-alone high school course Georgia Milestone Economics/Business/Free Enterprise End-of-Course Assessment; Some K-12 financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

In 2014, the Georgia House passed House Resolution 1186, which requested “the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to impose as a requirement for high school graduation the successful completion of a SKILLS FOR SUCCESS financial literacy class.”¹¹⁶ Up until recently, in order to graduate high school in Georgia a student needed to complete a one-half credit economics course which included personal finance instruction.¹¹⁷ In April of 2022, SB 220 was signed into law.; this bill requires students to take a half-credit personal finance course in order to graduate as opposed to a course that only includes aspects of financial literacy.

Any student enrolled in an economics course, therefore each student who graduates from a Georgia high school, is required to take the Georgia Milestone Economics/Business/Free Enterprise End-of-Course Assessment. The state-wide assessment counts as 20% of the student’s final grade in the course. Personal Finance Economics is 19% of the material tested, out of five total categories. The assessment is intended to test the student’s knowledge of the state standards.¹¹⁸

Financial literacy is somewhat embedded in Georgia’s K-12 standards, but not thoroughly. Under Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence, there are economics standards for each grade, K-8. There are specific personal budget and money management standards in Grades 4, 5, and 8. While Georgia students are therefore exposed to financial literacy, it is not a guaranteed component of their education in each grade.¹¹⁹

Because it provides some financial literacy but does not ensure thorough foundational learning, Georgia receives a “B.” Georgia now requires a stand-alone financial literacy course for graduation, however, in order to receive an “A,” Georgia should financial literacy standards for elementary grades.

¹¹⁶ <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20132014/HR/1186>

¹¹⁷ http://archives.gadoe.org/_documents/doe/legalservices/160-4-2-.48.pdf, pg. 5

¹¹⁸ <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/EOCT.aspx>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/Social-Studies.aspx>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required personal financial literacy and money management high school course; Financial literacy standards in most K-12 social studies standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement K-8 financial literacy standards

Personal finance is embedded under economics in some of the K-12 Social Studies standards. Specifically, there are personal finance objectives in grades 1-5, U.S. History I and II, and Economics.¹²⁰

In 2007, Idaho House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 urged the State Board of Education “to immediately begin exploring ways to include in the public-school curricula a financial literacy program... and reviewing existing financial literacy programs and materials that are available, with the aim of formalizing personal financial management as a requirement for graduation.”¹²¹ In March 2020, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 128 states findings of the legislature and encourages “Idaho high schools, colleges, and universities to offer credit-bearing personal finance classes to their students in order to impart financial literacy and promote financial stability among young Idahoans.”¹²² In March 2023, House Bill 92 was signed into law: “Each school district, specially chartered district, and public charter school serving students in grades 9 through 12, or any combination thereof, shall provide to all students in grades 9 through 12 one (1) or more courses in personal financial literacy and money management.” A standalone personal finance course is now required to graduate high school: “Completing this course will fulfill the financial literacy component of the high school graduation requirement.” The law takes effect on July 1, 2023.¹²³

Idaho receives a “B” for financial literacy instruction, as it provides instruction through the embedded standards in the required high school personal financial literacy and money management course and some K-8 economics standards. Idaho needs to create Grades 6-8 financial literacy standards in order to raise its grade to an “A.”

¹²⁰ <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/social-studies/ICS-Social-Studies.pdf>

¹²¹ <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2007/legislation/HCR010>

¹²² <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/billbookmark/?yr=2020&bn=SCR128>

¹²³ <https://legiscan.com/ID/text/H0092/2023>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Consumer education high school requirement; 1-12 social studies financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require a high school stand-alone personal finance course; Create Kindergarten financial literacy standards

Consumer education is not a high school graduation requirement in Illinois, but its instruction is required by law. Illinois School Code mandates that “Pupils in the public schools in grades 9 through 12 shall be taught and required to study courses which include instruction in the area of consumer education... The State Board of Education shall devise or approve the consumer education curriculum for grades 9 through 12 and specify the minimum amount of instruction to be devoted thereto.”¹²⁴ Illinois Administrative Code specifically provides that “each student shall be required to take consumer education for 50 minutes per day for a period of nine weeks in any of grades 9-12.”¹²⁵ This is approximately equivalent to a one-quarter credit. In a high school graduation requirement guide, the Illinois School Board of Education explains that “consumer education could be incorporated into a related course rather than offered as a stand-alone course, provided the content and time requirements are met.”¹²⁶

Previously, Illinois offered an option for students to test out of their consumer education requirement. From 1986-2010, students could take the Annual Consumer Education Proficiency Test, or ICEPT, developed by the Illinois State Board of Education, in order to receive credit for consumer education if they scored proficient or higher. The test was discontinued by Public Act 096-1061 (Senate Bill 3698) in 2010, likely due to budget constraints.¹²⁷ In 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed SB 1830 which includes language indicating that “beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, one semester, or part of one semester, may include a financial literacy course.”¹²⁸

Illinois has financial literacy standards in the Illinois Social Science Standards for each grade, beginning in first.¹²⁹ This ensures students are exposed to and instructed in financial literacy throughout their entire public-school career. A bill to require a stand alone personal finance class was introduced in 2023, but is currently pending.¹³⁰

Illinois receives a “B” for ensuring financial literacy instruction for Grades K-12 through its social science standards. By allowing local districts to determine how to provide the one-quarter credit of financial literacy requirement rather than mandating it as a stand-alone personal finance course, Illinois

¹²⁴

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=010500050HArt%2E+27&ActID=1005&ChapterID=17&SeqStart=165400000&SeqEnd=173100000> (27-12.1)

¹²⁵ <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ONEARK.pdf>, pg. 121

¹²⁶ https://www.isbe.net/Documents/grad_require.pdf, pg. 5

¹²⁷ <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/PDF/096-1061.pdf>

¹²⁸ <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/102/SB/PDF/10200SB1830lv.pdf>

¹²⁹ <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/K-12-SS-Standards.pdf>

¹³⁰ <https://trackbill.com/bill/illinois-house-bill-1375-sch-cd-financial-education/2337232/>



does not receive an “A.” In order to receive an “A,” this requirement should be increased and mandated as a stand-alone course.





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required one-half unit of personal financial literacy for high school graduation; K-12 financial literacy standards; Dedicated financial literacy website
- **Needs Improvement:** Make the high school graduation requirement a *stand-alone* course rather than integrated into other classes.

In an effort to increase its students' financial literacy, Iowa recently added a personal finance course as a graduation requirement. 2018 Chapter 1119 (S.F. 2415) mandates that "all students shall complete at least one-half unit of personal finance literacy as a condition of graduation," beginning with the graduating class of 2021.¹³¹ The course can be taught in Social Studies, Math, or CTE. The requirement can specifically be met through the successful completion of: Consumer Math, Economics, Microeconomics, Introductory Business, Banking & Finance, Family & Consumer Sciences, Consumer Economics/ Personal Finance, Iowa Financial Literacy Course, Life Skills, Personal and Career Readiness, or Employability Skills. The completed course can count towards another graduation requirement if it meets the requirements. For example, if the course is taught in social studies, it can count as part of the five units of social studies required. Schools may offer multiple courses that meet the personal finance literacy requirement.¹³²

Prior to requiring a personal finance course, Iowa already had embedded financial literacy into its K-12 standards. In 2007, the Iowa legislature created the Iowa 21st century framework which includes financial literacy as one its five core strands. Iowa has specific financial literacy standards for each grade, K-12, which are required by law to be met, ensuring each Iowa student is thoroughly instructed in personal financial literacy.¹³³ Even with the addition of the 21st century skills financial literacy core standards, students must still meet the one-half unit personal finance high school graduation requirement.¹³⁴

Iowa also provides financial literacy resources with links to helpful websites and curriculums on the Iowa Department of Education Financial Literacy website.¹³⁵

Iowa ensures financial literacy instruction in kindergarten through 12th grade through specific K-12 financial literacy standards and its high school personal finance requirement. However, Iowa receives a "B" instead of an "A" because its high school requirement can be integrated into other courses rather than only taught as a stand-alone personal finance course.

¹³¹ <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/iactc/87.2/CH1119.pdf>, pg.7

¹³² <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/financial-literacy-guidance>

¹³³ <https://educateiowa.gov/standard/21st-century-skills/21st-century-skills>

¹³⁴ <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/financial-literacy-guidance>

¹³⁵ https://educateiowa.gov/financial-literacy#Financial_Literacy_Resources





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school financial literacy instruction requirement; K-12 Vocational Studies financial literacy standards; Kentucky Financial Empowerment Commission; Financial Literacy and Personal Finance website
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

Effective July 14, 2018, Kentucky Acts Ch. 81 Sec. 1 (House Bill 132) mandates that, beginning with the graduating class of 2024, students must successfully complete “one or more courses or programs that meet the financial literacy standards” for high school graduation.¹³⁶ Prior to the passage of this bill, there was no specific financial literacy instruction requirement for high school graduation. Kentucky’s minimum graduation requirements list “receive instruction in financial literacy” but does not list the requirement as a stand-alone personal finance course.¹³⁷

The Kentucky Academic Standards: Vocational Studies includes specific primary, Grades 4-8, and high school standards for financial literacy.¹³⁸ Kentucky Academic Standards are “the minimum required standards that all Kentucky students should have the opportunity to learn before graduating from Kentucky high schools” and “address what is to be learned, but do not address how learning experiences are to be designed or what resources should be used.”¹³⁹ These K-12 standards provide the framework for ensuring all Kentucky students receive financial literacy instruction.

In 2019, Kentucky passed House Bill 139, an addition to KRS Chapter 41, which establishes the Kentucky Financial Empowerment Commission. The commission was created to “develop and implement a plan toward increasing financial empowerment for all Kentuckians, specifically the following target groups: K-12 students in Kentucky.”¹⁴⁰ The Kentucky Department of Education website has a page dedicated to Financial Literacy and Personal Finance with links to and descriptions of financial literacy resources.¹⁴¹

Kentucky receives a “B” in financial literacy for requiring financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 through standards and a high school personal finance instruction requirement. In order to receive an “A,” Kentucky needs to make the high school requirement a stand-alone course requirement.

¹³⁶ <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=47722>

¹³⁷ https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/hsgradreq/Documents/New_Graduation_Requirements.pdf

¹³⁸ <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Pages/default.aspx>

¹³⁹ <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁴⁰ <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/19RS/hb139/bill.pdf>

¹⁴¹ <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/conpro/Pages/FinLit.aspx>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school financial literacy instruction requirement; Financial literacy standards in most K-8 social studies standards; required high school stand-alone personal finance course
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

2016 Louisiana Act No. 624 (House Bill No. 401) mandates that “each public elementary or secondary school shall offer instruction in personal financial management based on the concept of achieving financial literacy... such instruction and subject matter shall be integrated into an existing course of study.” This was an amendment, as the previous wording made financial literacy instruction an option rather than a requirement.¹⁴² In the Louisiana Student Standards: Social Studies, some grades have economics standards which align with personal finance standards.¹⁴³

Previously it was required that Louisiana students must receive financial literacy “instruction as a requirement for high school graduation,” in accordance with 2018 Louisiana Act No. 154 (Senate Bill No. 315) but that instruction could be embedded in another course. Louisiana Act No. 116, (House Bill No. 239), mandated that the required instruction for personal financial management include the component of “the process and responsibilities, including repayment and default, of borrowing money to fund postsecondary education opportunities.”¹⁴⁴ In June 2023, the Legislature of Louisiana passed HB103 “to add Financial Literacy as a required high school course; to remove requirements for instruction in personal financial management”¹⁴⁵ replacing the embedded personal financial management instruction with a standalone financial literacy course.

Louisiana guarantees financial literacy instruction through a standalone financial literacy course and some K-8 standards, earning a “B.” In order to improve its grade, Louisiana must implement more foundational financial literacy standards for Grades K-8.

¹⁴² <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1013211>

¹⁴³ https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/k-12-louisiana-student-standards-for-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=df396518_34

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1143559>

¹⁴⁵ <https://trackbill.com/bill/louisiana-house-bill-103-curricula-adds-financial-literacy-as-a-required-course-for-high-school-students-en-increase-lf-ex-see-note/2401329/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Personal Finance Performance Expectations in high school; K-12 social studies financial literacy standards; Online financial literacy resources
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

Maine allows its local districts to utilize a traditional credit-based diploma or a proficiency-based diploma. With either option, instruction in “civics and personal finance” is required as a part of the two years of social studies and history instruction required for high school graduation.¹⁴⁶ There are four Personal Finance Performance Expectations for Grades 9- Diploma in Maine’s Social Studies standards.¹⁴⁷ Maine law also requires that “the commissioner shall develop a program of technical assistance that promotes the importance of financial literacy and encourages school administrative units to implement an integrated model for instruction in personal finance that may be used in secondary schools as part of the instruction in social studies or mathematics... and shall identify best practices to support students’ financial literacy.”¹⁴⁸

Maine’s Social Studies standards include at least one Personal Finance Performance Expectation for each grade from K-5, Early Adolescence (Grades 6-8), and Adolescence (Grades 9-Diploma).¹⁴⁹ By addressing personal finance in K-12 standards, Maine ensures its students receive robust financial literacy instruction.

Furthermore, the Maine Department of Education website provides a Financial Literacy webpage with both Maine-based resources and web-based resources for instruction in financial literacy.¹⁵⁰

Maine receives a “B” for providing financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 through its social studies standards. However, because of Maine’s optional proficiency-based diploma, there is no high school stand-alone personal finance course requirement, which would earn Maine an “A”.

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-a/title20-Asec4722.html>

¹⁴⁷ https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Maine%20Learning%20Results%20for%20Social%20Studies%20-%20Revised%202019_4.pdf, pg. 14

¹⁴⁸ <http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec254.html>

¹⁴⁹ https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Maine%20Learning%20Results%20for%20Social%20Studies%20-%20Revised%202019_4.pdf, pg. 11-14

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/content/socialstudies/resources/financialliteracy>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school financial literacy instruction; Financial literacy standards in most K-8 standards; Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State and Financial Literacy Advisory Council; Financial literacy website
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

Maryland does not have any stand-alone high school graduation course requirements which ensure financial literacy instruction.¹⁵¹ Effective September 2011, Maryland's local school systems must have implemented a financial literacy program of instruction. "Each local school system shall provide personal financial literacy curriculum documents for the elementary and secondary schools under its jurisdiction that include and align with the State curriculum as developed by the Maryland State Department of Education in collaboration with local school systems." The financial literacy programs of instruction must be certified every five years.¹⁵² At the time of the publication of the 2022-2023 Maryland State Department of Education Personal Financial Literacy Education Annual Report, eight of Maryland's 24 school systems had a local graduation requirement for personal finance. The remaining systems had personal finance integrated into a course which is required for high school graduation, meaning every Maryland student is receiving financial literacy instruction prior to high school graduation.¹⁵³

In 2008, Maryland Chapter 187 and 186 (House Bill 1242 and Senate Bill 533, respectively) created a Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy in the State to "study the current ability of high school students to understand basic financial concepts," "evaluate the current provision of financial literacy education in Maryland's public schools," and "assess the utility of financial literacy education as part of primary and secondary education."¹⁵⁴ Following the task force's recommendations, the State Superintendent of Schools created "a Financial Literacy Education Design Team to develop financial literacy education content standards- statements about what students should know and be able to do" as well as a "Financial Literacy Advisory Council to oversee the work of the design team and help leverage resources." The design team created content standards to serve as the framework for Maryland's personal Financial Literacy State Curriculum.¹⁵⁵ The Maryland State Curriculum for Personal Financial Literacy Education is based on the Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education and Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Personal Financial Literacy and is "designed to assist educators in developing and evaluating curricula that will align with the standards, indicators, and objectives." There are six standard strands for Personal Financial Literacy, each with differing standards broken into Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 bands. The specific way the standards are implemented and taught is left to the discretion of the local school districts.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵¹ <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Testing/GraduationsRequirements2018.pdf>

¹⁵² http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/CTE/FL_Update_Report_2019-2021.pdf

¹⁵³ https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/CTE/Financial%20Literacy/FL_Standards_2022_Final.pdf

¹⁵⁴ http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2008rs/chapters_noln/Ch_187_hb1242E.pdf

¹⁵⁵ [http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/OPA/TF/SB140Ch199HB120Ch200_2009\(1-2010\).pdf](http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/OPA/TF/SB140Ch199HB120Ch200_2009(1-2010).pdf)

¹⁵⁶ <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Financial-Literacy/standards.aspx>



The Maryland State Department of Education has a website with financial literacy resources and links available for parents and educators.¹⁵⁷

Although Maryland has financial literacy standards for Grades 3-12 and requires each high school to implement a financial literacy instruction program, Maryland receives a “B” for financial literacy instruction. We recommend creating financial literacy standards for K-2 grade band and mandate that the high school financial literacy program be a stand-alone personal finance course.

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Financial-Literacy/resources.aspx>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required one-half credit high school course with financial literacy instruction; Financial literacy standards in most K-8 social studies standards; Michigan Merit Exam
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

Previous to 2022, Michigan Merit Curriculum required a one-half credit in Economics for high school graduation. The law also stated that “the ½-credit Economics requirement may be satisfied by completion of at least ½-course credit in Personal Economics that includes a Financial Literacy component... if that course covers the subject area content expectations for Economics.”¹⁵⁸ In the High School Content Expectations: Social Studies, there are six standards under the Personal Finance strand for the Economics course, meaning each student was exposed to financial literacy instruction prior to graduating high school.¹⁵⁹ In 2022, HB5190 was signed into law, including financial literacy as a curriculum requirement for high school graduation.¹⁶⁰

2002 Act No. 111 (House Bill No. 5327) amended Educational Code to mandate that “the department shall develop or adopt, and shall make available to schools, one or more model programs for youth financial education. A program under this section shall be designed to incorporate financial education throughout the curriculum for grades K to 12 and shall be based on the concept of achieving financial literacy... Each school district... is encouraged to adopt and implement the model financial education programs.”¹⁶¹ Although personal finance should be embedded into its K-12 standards, Michigan’s updated 2019 Social Studies K-12 Standards do not extensively cover personal finance. Grades K-4 and 6 have economics sections which relate somewhat to personal finance.¹⁶² Personal finance is thoroughly covered in the high school economics standards and more recently as a stand-alone course.

Michigan assesses personal finance statewide through the Michigan Merit Exam, in which all 11th graders must take the M-STEP Social Studies with personal finance standards.¹⁶³

Michigan receives a “B” for ensuring financial literacy instruction in high school via the required financial literacy course as well as through some K-8 social studies standards. The required state-wide assessment of financial literacy in the M-STEP also ensures instruction. Michigan must create more foundational financial literacy standards for the elementary and middle grades in order to raise its grade to an “A.”

¹⁵⁸ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Complete_MMC_FAQ_August_2014_467323_7.pdf

¹⁵⁹ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Final_Social_Studies_Standards_Document_655968_7.pdf p.144

¹⁶⁰ <https://trackbill.com/bill/michigan-house-bill-5190-education-curriculum-requirements-for-michigan-merit-curriculum-modify-amends-secs-1278a-amp-1278b-of-1976-pa-451-mcl-380-1278a-amp-380-1278b/2413027/>

¹⁶¹ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2001-2002/publicact/pdf/2002-PA-0111.pdf>

¹⁶² https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Final_Social_Studies_Standards_Document_655968_7.pdf

¹⁶³ https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_35150---,00.html





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High schools required to offer Personal Finance elective; College and Career Readiness Course containing personal finance instruction required for graduation; Some K-8 financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to include more financial literacy instruction in the high school stand-alone Career and College Readiness course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

As of 2019, all Mississippi high schools were required to offer a one-half credit Personal Finance elective. Public high schools may offer a one-half unit in Financial Technology, Resource Management, or National Endowment in lieu of Personal Finance. Personal Finance, which is an elective that can be taken during 9-12th grade, has standards that robustly cover financial literacy. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis has also developed a curriculum guide for the Mississippi Personal Finance elective, which is aligned to both national and Mississippi standards.¹⁶⁴

In the 2022 Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for the Social Studies, there is an economics strand for each grade, K-12. The guide explains that the strand, which integrates economic reasoning and some elements of personal finance into the K-12 curriculum, helps students in “demonstrating an understanding of economics and financial literacy in order to make informed financial decisions throughout their lives.”¹⁶⁵

Beginning with the 2022 graduating class, the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Course will be required for graduation¹⁶⁶. Included in the curriculum is a one semester personal finance course. The unit is based on the Council for Economic Education National Standards for Financial Literacy as well as the Jump\$tart National Standards and was developed with the help of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education.

Mississippi receives a “B,” as it ensures personal finance instruction for all students through the CCR course. In order to raise its grade, Mississippi needs to create financial literacy grade-specific standards for K-8.

¹⁶⁴ <https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/mississippi-personal-finance-curriculum>

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.mdek12.org/secondaryeducation/socialstudies>

¹⁶⁶ <https://www.mdek12.org/ese/College-and-Career-Readiness>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school financial literacy instruction; Financial literacy standards in most K-12 social studies standards; State Seal of Financial Literacy; Annual Financial Literacy Month; State Financial Literacy Advisory Council; A separate site for Financial Literacy information and resources; personal finance standards in most K-8 grades
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

2017 Nevada Chapter 456 (Senate Bill 249) amended the Nevada high school requirements to add a “one-half unit of credit in economics.” The new requirement is effective July 2022.¹⁶⁷ Nevada has a set of Grades 9-12 Financial Literacy standards in the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies. There are 13 specific standards with five categories, but it is not clear if the standards are to be mastered in a specific course. “By the conclusion of grade 12, each student will learn to evaluate and assess personal financial literacy skills.” For Grade 9-12: Civics and Economics, there are no personal finance-specific standards.¹⁶⁸

2017 Chapter 456 also mandates that “The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall ensure that instruction in financial literacy is provided to pupils enrolled in grades 3 to 12, inclusive, in each public school.” Furthermore, it requires that the financial literacy standards listed in the legislation must be included in the state’s standards and included within courses with relevant standards, as established by the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, effective July 1, 2022.¹⁶⁹ Currently, in the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6-8, and 9-12 have specific Financial Literacy standards. Financial Literacy is one of six content theme standards for the Social Studies standards and has five of its own content themes. These standards were revised in 2018.¹⁷⁰ AB19 was passed in 2021, stating that “existing law provides that social studies includes only the subjects of history, geography, economics and government. This bill removes government from the list of subjects included within social studies and adds civics, financial literacy and multicultural education to that list.”¹⁷¹

The Nevada Department of Education has a website that provides a “hub of Financial Literacy information and resources to support the academic achievement and financial success of all students in Nevada.”¹⁷² Adopted on June 5, 2019, Senate Bill 314 established a State Seal of Financial Literacy to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of students that demonstrate proficiency in financial literacy. The

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Bill/5170/Overview>

¹⁶⁸

https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/2017/December/ConsentAgenda6bFinLitstds.pdf

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Bill/5170/Overview>

¹⁷⁰

https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/2017/December/ConsentAgenda6bFinLitstds.pdf

¹⁷¹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7261/Text>

¹⁷² https://doe.nv.gov/Nevada_Academic_Standards/Financial_Literacy/



legislation also instituted an annual Financial Literacy Month and a State Financial Literacy Advisory Council.¹⁷³

Nevada receives a “B” for ensuring financial literacy instruction through most of Grades K-12 through social studies and specific high school financial literacy standards. Nevada’s Financial Literacy Month, Financial Literacy Advisory Council, and State Seal of Financial Literacy are all commendable efforts towards increasing financial literacy instruction. In order to receive an “A,” we recommend that Nevada introduce basic foundational personal finance concepts in K-2 and use the high school financial literacy standards to require a stand-alone personal finance course.

¹⁷³ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6555/Overview>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school and middle school financial literacy instruction required; K-8 financial literacy standards by grade bands; Financial literacy website
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

In order to graduate from high school, New Jersey students must complete 2.5 credits (equivalent to a half-year) in Financial, Economic Business, and Entrepreneurial Business Literacy.¹⁷⁴ Students can complete this requirement “by completing a stand-alone, half-year course” or “by completing one or more elective courses that integrate the content and skills required,” both being “taught by staff holding a Social Studies; Business: Finance, Economics, and Law; Comprehensive Business; Comprehensive Family and Consumer Sciences; General Business certificate; or Math certificate.” Local districts can determine how and in which year or years the course will be delivered as well as if it will be an online or seat-time program, or both. Also, local districts are “responsible for assessing and publicly reporting on the progress of all students in developing the knowledge and skills specified by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, including civics, financial literacy, and all content areas not currently included in the Statewide assessment program.”¹⁷⁵ New Jersey Student Learning Standard 9.1 outlines specific Personal Financial Literacy standards that should be met by the end of Grade 12 through this requirement.¹⁷⁶

New Jersey Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills Learning Standards also specify Personal Financial Literacy standards that should be met by the end of Grades 2, 5, 8, and 12.¹⁷⁷ Districts were required to align their K-12 curriculum to these standards by September 2015. Furthermore, New Jersey Chapter 176 (A1414), which was enacted on January 3, 2019, requires “that a school district incorporate in each of the grades six through eight financial literacy instruction,” legislating the middle school financial literacy requirement.¹⁷⁸

The State of New Jersey Department of Education also provides financial literacy resources, including model curriculum, on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards 21st Century Life and Careers webpage.¹⁷⁹ In 2022, New Jersey launched a “financial wellness platform” which offers free courses, tools, and other resources relating to financial literacy.¹⁸⁰

Because it guarantees some financial literacy instruction through the high school graduation requirements and the standards for Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills, New Jersey receives a “B” in financial literacy instruction. New Jersey should mandate that the high school graduation requirement can only be met through a stand-alone personal finance course to raise its grade.

¹⁷⁴<https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/grad.pdf>

¹⁷⁵<https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/grad.pdf>

¹⁷⁶<https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/grad.pdf>

¹⁷⁷ <https://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2020/2020%20NJSLS-CLKS.pdf>

¹⁷⁸ https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL18/167_.PDF

¹⁷⁹<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/clicks/finlit.shtml>

¹⁸⁰ <https://njfinlit.enrich.org/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school course with minimal embedded financial literacy instruction; Social Studies: Economics End-of-Course Exam; High schools required to offer Financial Literacy elective with Financial Literacy End-of-Course Exam; K-12 Personal Finance Standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

While it does not provide robust financial literacy instruction, New Mexico requires a half-credit economics course for high school graduation, which contains some personal finance standards.¹⁸¹ Grades 9-12 Social Studies Standards have three benchmarks under the Economics strand, one of which has a few Performance Standards that relate to personal financial literacy.¹⁸² Students must take the Social Studies: Economics End-of-Course exam, which means students are tested statewide on some personal finance concepts.¹⁸³ Furthermore, New Mexico requires that each high school offer Financial Literacy as an elective.¹⁸⁴ Financial Literacy is taught as a mathematics course, which may count as one of the four required mathematics credits.¹⁸⁵ The New Mexico Public Education Department requires a Financial Literacy End-of-Course Exam for the elective which is “intended to measure student proficiency of the Common Core Standards pertaining to Financial Literacy” and “is provided to all students who have completed Financial Literacy or related courses.”¹⁸⁶

In its Social Studies Standards for grades K-8 Personal Finance Literacy is included as a theme in each grade, with aligned performance standards under each grade ensuring that students are exposed to foundational elements of personal finance.¹⁸⁷

New Mexico receives a “B” in financial literacy instruction. Although New Mexico minimally tests all high school students in personal finance concepts through the Social Studies: Economics End-of-Course exam, high school students only receive instruction through the standards embedded in the required economics course unless they take the elective course. In order to improve its grade, New Mexico should make the Financial Literacy course a requirement for graduation.

¹⁸¹ <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Graduation-Course-Requirements-2012-2021-1.pdf>

¹⁸² https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SocialStudiesStandards_9-12.pdf, pg. 8

¹⁸³ https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Economics_Blueprint-2.pdf

¹⁸⁴ <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/10%20Regular/final/HB0053.pdf>, pg. 4

¹⁸⁵ <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Graduation-Course-Requirements-2012-2021-1.pdf>

¹⁸⁶ https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Financial_Literacy_Blueprint-2.pdf

¹⁸⁷ <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NM-Standards-508.pdf>



Pennsylvania

- **Significant Accomplishments:** Financial literacy standards in most K-12 standards; Pennsylvania Task Force on Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy; Economic Education/Financial Literacy webpage; K-12 financial literacy model curriculum
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

Pennsylvania does not have any personal finance course or standards requirements for high school graduation.¹⁸⁸ As of 2016, only 15% of Pennsylvania school districts required a stand-alone course in personal finance for high school graduation.¹⁸⁹

Pennsylvania has State Academic Standards for 12 subject areas for Grades 3, 5, 8, and 12 as well as Early Learning Standards for Grades K, 1, and 2. There are some personal finance concepts in the State Academic Standards guides for Economics, Family and Computer Sciences, Business, Computer, and Information Technology, and Career Education and Work. There are also some personal finance standards in the Social Studies section of each Early Learning Standards guide, K-2. In Pennsylvania, standards “must be used as the basis for curriculum and instruction.”¹⁹⁰

2010 Public Law 996, No. 104 (House Bill 101) created the Pennsylvania Task Force on Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy to “make recommendations... to improve economic education and personal financial literacy.”¹⁹¹ In the following 2012 Pennsylvania Task Force on Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy Education Report and Recommendations, the first two recommendations were to “require every Pennsylvania high school student to complete a stand-alone capstone course on personal finance in order to graduate” and to “adopt comprehensive, stand-alone Pennsylvania K-12 academic standards devoted to personal finance.”¹⁹² No direct action was taken on the recommendations, and the Departments of Education and Banking and Securities still release similar reports following the disbandment of the taskforce.¹⁹³

2010 Public Law 996, No. 104 also requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to “provide resource information on economics, economic education and personal financial literacy to educators and public and private schools and organizations” and “provide for the distribution” of “teacher curriculum materials and other available resources.”¹⁹⁴ The Department has an Economic Education/Financial Literacy webpage dedicated to these purposes.¹⁹⁵ There is also A Model Curriculum

¹⁸⁸ [https://www.education.pa.gov/K-](https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Pages/default.aspx)

[12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Pages/default.aspx)

¹⁸⁹ https://www.dobs.pa.gov/Documents/Publications/Reports/PA_Financial_Education_Report_2016.pdf

¹⁹⁰ <https://www.stateboard.education.pa.gov/Regulations/AcademicStandards/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁹¹ <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2010&sessInd=0&act=104>

¹⁹² <https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Teachers-Administrators/Curriculum/Economic%20Education%20and%20Financial%20Literacy/Report%20and%20Recommendations%20-%20Pennsylvania%20Task%20Force%20on%20Economic%20Education%20and%20Personal%20Financial%20Literacy%20-%20January%202013.pdf>, pg. 24

¹⁹³ https://www.dobs.pa.gov/Documents/Publications/Reports/PA_Financial_Education_Report_2016.pdf

¹⁹⁴ <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2010&sessInd=0&act=104>

¹⁹⁵ <https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Curriculum/EconomicFinancialLiteracy/Pages/default.aspx>

for Pennsylvania Financial Education Programs available which aligns to personal finance concepts and standards from Grades PK-12.¹⁹⁶ At the time of publication, a bill requiring a half credit personal finance course had passed the Senate and was pending in the House Education Committee.¹⁹⁷

Pennsylvania receives a “B” for providing some financial literacy instruction through standards and model curriculum. If Pennsylvania legislates the recommendations of the Pennsylvania Task Force on Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy, to require a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation, it would raise its grade to an “A.”

¹⁹⁶ http://static.pdesas.org/content/documents/CF-PA_Model_Personal_Finance_Curriculum.pdf

¹⁹⁷ <https://trackbill.com/bill/pennsylvania-senate-bill-647-an-act-amending-the-act-of-march-10-1949-p-l-30-no-14-known-as-the-public-school-code-of-1949-in-terms-and-courses-of-study-further-providing-for-economic-education-and-personal-financial-literacy-programs-in-credit-card-marketing-further-providing-for-regulation-of-on-campus-credit-card-marketing-and-abrogating-regulations/2420734/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school course with financial literacy standards; High schools required to offer personal financial literacy elective; K-8 financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

Previous to 2021, in order to graduate from high school, Texas students were required to complete a one-half credit course entitled Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits.¹⁹⁸ There were 24 “knowledge and skills” for the course, and six are Personal Financial Literacy, ensuring each graduating student received some financial literacy instruction.¹⁹⁹ 2013 House Bill No. 2662 amended the Education Code so that “The Texas essential knowledge and skills... shall include instruction in personal financial literacy... in one or more courses offered for high school graduation.” It further requires that each “school that offers a high school program shall provide an elective course in personal financial literacy that meets the requirements for a one-half elective.”²⁰⁰ In 2021, the Texas General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1063²⁰¹ which creates a one-half credit course entitled “Personal Financial Literacy and Economics” comprised of one-third instruction time in economics and two-thirds instruction time in personal financial literacy; students will be able to take this course in order to fulfill the above-mentioned one-half credit requirement in economics.

2013 Texas House Bill No. 2662 also mandates that “each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum... personal financial literacy.”²⁰² Personal financial literacy concepts are embedded into each grade, K-8, in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics. This ensures financial literacy instruction for each student.²⁰³

The Texas Education Agency Provides a list of open-source curricula that satisfies the requirements of the Personal Financial Literacy and Economics high school course.²⁰⁴

Texas ensures financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12 through its legislative mandate to include instruction in its curriculum as well as embedded into its mathematics and high school economics standards, earning Texas a “B.” Although each Texas high school is already required to offer the stand-alone Personal Finance elective, making the course a requirement for graduation would earn Texas an “A.”

¹⁹⁸ [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=2&ch=113&rl=31#:~:text=These%20concepts%20are%20incorporated%20into,money%20to%20make%20the%20transition](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=2&ch=113&rl=31#:~:text=These%20concepts%20are%20incorporated%20into,money%20to%20make%20the%20transition)

¹⁹⁹ <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/Economics%20Crosswalk.pdf>

²⁰⁰ <https://capitol.texas.gov/Search/DocViewer.aspx?ID=79RHB004925B&QueryText=%22personal+finance%22&DocType=B>

²⁰¹ <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/html/SB01063F.htm>

²⁰² <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/83R/billtext/pdf/HB02662F.pdf#navpanes=0>

²⁰³ <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/83R/billtext/html/HB02662H.htm>

²⁰⁴ <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/subject-areas/social-studies>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school financial literacy instruction; Adopted Jump\$tart K-12 Financial Literacy standards; Financial literacy resources
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

The state of Vermont adopted Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements, beginning implementation with the graduating class of 2020, in which local districts determine their high school graduation requirements based on the standards adopted by the Vermont State Board of Education. “A student meets the requirements for graduation when the student demonstrates evidence of proficiency in the curriculum outlined in 2120.5, and completion of any other requirements specified by the local board of the school attended by the student.” One of the required curriculum areas is Financial Literacy. The Vermont State Board of Education provides “sample financial literacy grade-banded [K-8](#) and [9-12](#) performance indicators and Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements which can be implemented in an interdisciplinary manner.”²⁰⁵

The Vermont State Board of Education adopted the Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education in January 2018. According to the Board of Education’s website, “The Agency of Education is working with the Center for Financial Literacy and Vermont educators to align the Jump\$tart Standards to performance indicators, proficiency-based graduation requirements (PBGRs) and student-centered learning... It is expected that the SU/SD instruct and assess financial literacy concepts based on the standards. How that is accomplished is locally determined.” The standards can be met in social studies, math, business, family and consumer science, and through flexible pathways. Currently, 13 of Vermont’s 55 supervisory unions/supervisory districts require Financial Literacy as a graduation requirement.²⁰⁶

The Vermont Agency of Education provides a list of sample financial literacy resources for “elementary school generalists or content-focused high school or Career and Technical Education teachers” on their website.²⁰⁷

Because Vermont provides financial literacy benchmarks for kindergarten, 4th, 8th, and 12th grade ensuring that students receive exposure to personal finance concepts throughout their school career, Vermont receives a “B” in financial literacy instruction. Vermont should require for graduation the completion of a stand-alone personal finance course in all schools.

²⁰⁵ <https://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/content-areas/financial-literacy>

²⁰⁶ <https://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/content-areas/financial-literacy>

²⁰⁷ <https://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/content-areas/financial-literacy>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school financial literacy instruction required to be offered; K-12 financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

The state of Washington does not have any specific financial literacy high school graduation requirements.²⁰⁸ 2015 Washington Chapter 211 (Senate Bill 5202) requires that “school districts shall provide all students in grades nine through twelve the opportunity to access the financial education standards.” It lists a variety of ways in which schools may offer the financial literacy instruction, including optional opportunities and a course for high school graduation credit, leaving the implementation to the discretion of local school districts.²⁰⁹

Washington has Financial Education Washington State Learning Standards which are based on the Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education and the Council for Economic Education National Standards for Financial Literacy. There are six financial literacy competencies with specific grade level standards and benchmarks for Grades K-12.²¹⁰ 2015 Washington Chapter 211 (Senate Bill 5202) also requires that “the superintendent shall integrate financial education skills and content knowledge into the state learning standards” and that “standards in K-12 personal finance education developed by a national coalition for personal financial literacy... are adopted as the state financial education learning standards.”²¹¹ These provisions and adopted standards ensure that Washington students receive financial literacy instruction in K-12 curriculum.

Washington receives a “B” for developing and implementing K-12 financial literacy standards, guaranteeing instruction in each grade. However, in order to receive an “A,” Washington needs to change its requirement to offer financial literacy instruction in high school into a requirement of a stand-alone course.

²⁰⁸ <https://www.sbe.wa.gov/our-work/graduation-requirements/graduation-requirements-class-2021>

²⁰⁹ <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5202-S.SL.pdf>

²¹⁰ <https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/curriculum/instruct/financialeducation/pubdocs/fek-12learningstandardsoct2016.pdf>

²¹¹ <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5202-S.SL.pdf>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** K-12 financial literacy standards by grade bands; Wisconsin Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

There are no financial literacy related course requirements for high school graduation in Wisconsin.²¹² However, 2017 Wisconsin Act 94 (Assembly Bill 280) requires that each school board “adopt academic standards for financial literacy and incorporate instruction in financial literacy into the curriculum in grades kindergarten to 12.”²¹³ The Wisconsin Standards for Personal Financial Literacy, updated in June 2020, are divided into six strands that support the learning of personal financial literacy through grade bands K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Though these standards provide students with a strong personal financial literacy framework, the adoption of the standards is voluntary.²¹⁴

2021 Executive Order #106 renamed the Wisconsin Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy (created under 2011 Executive Order #24) as the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy and Capability. The Council’s mission is, in part, to “Explore and identify best practices in implementing financial literacy and capability through individuals’ life stages – pre-k to college, young adult, adulthood, pre-retirement, and retirement.”²¹⁵ At the publication of this report, a bill requiring one half-credit of financial literacy instruction had passed the Wisconsin Assembly and was pending in the Senate.²¹⁶

While Wisconsin has made notable efforts towards financial literacy instruction, it still receives a “B” Wisconsin must institute a required stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation to receive an “A.”

²¹² <https://dpi.wi.gov/graduation/requirements>

²¹³ <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab280>

²¹⁴ <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/standards/New%20pdfs/PersonalFinancialLiteracyStandards2020.pdf>

²¹⁵ <https://www.wdfl.org/OFL/govcouncilfinlit/>

²¹⁶ <https://trackbill.com/bill/wisconsin-assembly-bill-109-relating-to-requiring-one-half-credit-of-personal-financial-literacy-for-high-school-graduation-fe/2401566/>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** K-12 financial literacy standards; Financial Literacy website; required high school stand-alone personal finance course
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

In Kansas State Statutes, it is mandated that “the state board of education shall develop state curriculum standards for personal financial literacy, for all grade levels, within the existing mathematics curriculum or another appropriate subject-matter curriculum.”²¹⁷ The Kansas State Department of Education has officially adopted the Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education as the Kansas financial literacy K-12 standards. The standards are recognized in Business, Family and Consumer Sciences, Mathematics, and Social Studies. “The National Jump\$tart standards are used as a guide for instruction. They are indicated for Kindergarten, 4th, 8th and 12 grades, however should be referenced to determine all K-12 financial literacy instruction to determine grade appropriateness.”²¹⁸

Also, in the same statute, it mandates that “the state board of education shall include questions relating to personal financial literacy in the statewide assessments for mathematics or social studies.”²¹⁹ It is unclear how financial literacy is tested in the statewide assessments. The Mathematics and ELA standards for which the Grades 3-8 and 10 statewide assessments are based do not include financial literacy.

The Kansas State Department of Education has a Financial Literacy website “to offer support to local districts concerning personal financial literacy instruction for K-12 schools.” It houses the information on the Council of Economic Education and Jump\$tart standards and includes a financial literacy resource list.²²⁰ In 2021, the Kansas legislature passed HB 2039 which would require both a civics test and “for grades 10, 11, and 12, a personal financial literacy course to be at least one semester or two quarters in length.”²²¹ However, Governor Laura Kelly vetoed the bill stating legislative overreach.²²² In 2022, the Kansas Board of Education made changes to its graduation requirements, notably adding at least a half unit course in financial literacy and requiring all students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (although students and families will have the ability to opt out of this “requirement.”)²²³

²¹⁷

http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2012/m/statute/072_000_0000_chapter/072_075_0000_article/072_075_0035_section/072_075_0035_k.pdf

²¹⁸ <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/CSAS-Home/Financial-Literacy>

²¹⁹

http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2012/m/statute/072_000_0000_chapter/072_075_0000_article/072_075_0035_section/072_075_0035_k.pdf

²²⁰ <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/CSAS-Home/Financial-Literacy>

²²¹ <https://www.ksde.org/Home/Quick-Links/News-Room/Weekly-News/Standards-and-Instruction>

²²² http://kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measures/documents/hb2039_enrolled.pdf

²²³ <https://www.cjonline.com/story/news/education/2022/11/14/kansas-high-school-graduation-requirements-are-new-for-class-of-2027/69638759007/>



Kansas receives a “B” for ensuring some financial literacy instruction through the adaptation of the Jump\$tart standards and the new requirements of a half unit personal finance course. In order to receive an “A,” Kansas needs to clarify specific financial literacy standards for Grades K-8.



Massachusetts

- **Significant Accomplishments:** Financial literacy standards in most K-12 standards; Personal Financial Literacy in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks; Financial Literacy Pilot Program
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

There is currently no financial literacy specific high school graduation requirement in Massachusetts.²²⁴ However, signed by the governor in January 2019, Chapter 438 (Senate Bill No. 2374) requires that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education establish Financial Literacy standards that “promote an understanding of personal finances,” and schools “may incorporate the personal financial literacy standards... into existing mathematics, social sciences, technology, business or other curricula.”²²⁵ The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released Personal Financial Literacy in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks: Aligned to Key Topics in Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2018, which lists the current standards from the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks that are associated with the specific financial literacy topics addressed in Chapter 438. However, these standards do not adequately cover all grades kindergarten through 12. Massachusetts should update their standards so that there are specific personal finance standards for each grade, K-12.²²⁶ Massachusetts does provide a resource guide aligned to the curriculum framework broken down by grade and availability of professional development.²²⁷

In addition, in November 2021, the Office of the Treasurer published a report detailing “what financial education is offered in schools, the barriers educators face in providing these classes, and how we can overcome them.”²²⁸ The report finds that while personal financial literacy education is offered in the majority of high schools, most districts do not require schools to teach any financial literacy instruction.

Massachusetts receives a “C” in financial literacy instruction, as it provides some instruction through its financial literacy curriculum framework standards. In order to raise its grade, Massachusetts must create grade-specific standards for each grade or grade band as well as require a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation.

²²⁴ <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/graduation.html>

²²⁵ <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter438>

²²⁶ <http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/financial-literacy.docx>

²²⁷ <https://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/qrg-financial-literacy.docx>

²²⁸ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/report-on-personal-financial-literacy-education-in-massachusetts-schools>

New Hampshire

- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school course
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement K-8 financial literacy standards

New Hampshire previously required a half-year course of economics for high school graduation, which included some financial literacy instruction.²²⁹ In 2022, HB1671 was passed which made personal finance part of the state's content of an adequate public education, requiring a semester-long course in financial literacy.²³⁰ The standards for this course that began in the 2023/2024 school year are not readily available on the Department of Education website.

There are some personal finance standards in the K-12 Social Studies New Hampshire Curriculum Framework for grades 7-8. Under grades 7-8 Economics, Personal Finance is one of six standards with eight of its own specific standards.²³¹ New Hampshire students are therefore not guaranteed exposure to personal finance until seventh grade. New Hampshire was in the process of re-writing the Curriculum Frameworks for Social Studies in 2018, but those updates appear to have been delayed.²³²

While New Hampshire does now require for graduation a stand-alone course in personal finance in high school, it provides little financial literacy instruction in K-8 therefor earning a "C." New Hampshire needs to create Grades K-6 personal finance standards in order to receive an "A."

²²⁹ <http://www.nheon.org/oet/tpguide/Ed306.27.htm>

²³⁰ <https://trackbill.com/bill/new-hampshire-house-bill-1671-relative-to-the-content-of-an-adequate-education/2178250/>

²³¹ <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/standards-socialstudies-framework.pdf>, pg. 54

²³² <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-learner-support/bureau-of-instructional-support/career-and-college-ready-standards>

North Dakota

- **Significant Accomplishments:** High school financial literacy instruction requirement; Financial literacy standards in most K-12 social studies standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

North Dakota requires either one unit of Problems and Democracy or one-half unit of US Government with one-half unit of Economics for high school graduation.²³³ 2009 North Dakota Chapter 175 (House Bill 1400) requires that “each school district shall ensure that its curriculum for either economics or problems of democracy includes the exposure of students to concepts of personal finance.” A school district may “select courses other than economics or problems of democracy for purposes of exposing students to the concepts of personal finance,” provided as many or more students are being exposed to personal finance instruction through the alternate class.²³⁴ There are no specific standards available online for the required courses. There is a Personal Finance Curriculum Resource Guide by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction which provides links to lessons and curriculum corresponding to the concepts of personal finance required by House Bill 1400.²³⁵

North Dakota approved new social studies economic standards August 2019. The new standards do not include any personal finance standards for K-5. In the 6-12 grade band, there is only one Personal Finance standard with five benchmarks within the Economics standard.²³⁶ Previously, there were some personal finance standards under Economics Concepts in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9-12

In 2009, the North Dakota legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 3016 which “urges school districts to offer students a course in financial literacy.”²³⁷

North Dakota receives a “C” for ensuring some financial literacy instruction through the embedded instruction in the 6-12 social studies standards. North Dakota must adopt grade-specific financial literacy for grades K-12 and make the high school financial literacy requirement a stand-alone course in order to raise its financial literacy instruction grade.

²³³ <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/students/academic-and-cte-scholarship/diploma-and-scholarship-information>

²³⁴ <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009/session-laws/documents/ELEMN.pdf#CHAPTER175>, pg. 25

²³⁵ <http://library.nd.gov/statedocs/PublicInstruction/PGguide20110411.pdf>

²³⁶ https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Academic%20Support/Final%20Social_Studies_Content%20Standards_Rev5_6.3.2020.pdf pg. 25

²³⁷ <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009/bill-text/JGGP0200.pdf>



- **Significant Accomplishments:** Middle and high school financial literacy instruction requirement; Oklahoma Personal Financial Literacy Passport
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

In Oklahoma, high school students must fulfill the requirements of a personal financial literacy passport prior to graduation.²³⁸ The requirements for doing so are “satisfactory completion in all areas of instruction in personal financial literacy,” which are 14 topics listed in 2007 House Bill 1476. “Personal financial literacy instruction shall be integrated into one or more existing courses of study or provided in a separate personal financial literacy course... The State Board of Education shall identify and adopt curriculum standards for personal financial literacy instruction” that should be “incorporated into the state academic content standards.”²³⁹ The law applies to Grades 7-12. The Personal Financial Literacy Passport Priority Academic Student Skills is a guide with the 14 personal finance standards clarified with additional information.²⁴⁰ The Oklahoma Personal Financial Literacy Passport includes a cumulative record which must be kept for each student and provided as proof for which class they received the instruction in for each of the 14 Priority Academic Student Skills, which can occur from Grades 7-12 and in one Personal Financial Literacy course or integrated into multiple different courses. The students must demonstrate “satisfactory knowledge” in each area in order to meet the requirement.²⁴¹ A student may “test out of personal financial literacy through a district-created assessment(s) for the 14 areas of instruction or the State Department of Education’s online curriculum modules which offer secure Web-based assessments.”²⁴²

While the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies include specific economics standards for each grade, K-high school, there are not personal finance concepts embedded into the standards beyond basic economic concepts in K-1.²⁴³ This means Oklahoma students are not guaranteed financial literacy instruction until they work towards the Personal Financial Literacy Passport in Grades 7-12.

The Oklahoma Department of Education has a dedicated Personal Financial Literacy Page with personal financial literacy curriculum, teacher guides, and resources.²⁴⁴

Although Oklahoma provides substantial financial literacy instruction in middle and high school through the Personal Financial Literacy Passport, it still receives a “C,” as there are no financial literacy standards for Grades K-6. In order to improve its grade, Oklahoma needs to add K-6 grade-specific

²³⁸ <https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/2022%20College%20Prep%20Graduation%20Checklist.pdf>

²³⁹ http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/cf_pdf/2007-08%20ENR/hB/HB1476%20ENR.PDF

²⁴⁰ https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/PASS_Personal_Financial_Literacy_rev08-2015.pdf

²⁴¹ <https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/PFLCumRecord.pdf>

²⁴² https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/Personal_Financial_Literacy_Standards_FAQs_121307.pdf

²⁴³

https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Oklahoma%20Academic%20Standards%20for%20Social%20Studies%205.21.19_0.pdf

²⁴⁴ <https://sde.ok.gov/personal-financial-literacy>

standards. Requiring that the 14 financial literacy standards be met in a stand-alone high school course rather than integrated into multiple courses would also improve Oklahoma's grade.





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Endorsed Council for Economic Education’s National Standards for Financial Literacy; by 2024, will require a proficiency in consumer education in order to graduate
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

The Rhode Island Board of Education Act, since 1979, mandates that “school districts shall provide for pupils in the public schools in grades eight through twelve to be taught and be required to study courses which include instruction in consumer education.”²⁴⁵ After introduction at the request of RI Treasurer Seth Magaziner in 2021, legislation was passed that requires the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the RI Department of Education, to develop and approve statewide academic standards for the instruction of consumer education in public high schools.²⁴⁶ The bill goes on to state that “by the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the school committees of the several cities, towns, and local education agencies (“LEAs”) shall ensure that public high schools offer a course that includes instruction in consumer education, that is aligned with the statewide standards...(and that) beginning with the graduating class of 2024, all students shall demonstrate proficiency in consumer education prior to graduating high school.”²⁴⁷

The legislation above only ensures personal finance standards in grades 9-12. In 2014, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorsed the Council for Economic Education’s National Standards for Financial Literacy. However, “the decision as to whether to offer courses in financial literacy, whether to require that students take these courses, and how you proceed with these courses in our schools remains a local decision.”²⁴⁸ The Council for Economic Education’s National Standards for Financial Literacy does have benchmarks for the end of Grades 4 and 8. Since these standards are not required by the state, they do not ensure students receive financial literacy instruction in their K-8 curriculum.²⁴⁹

While Rhode Island recently added consumer education standards, which include personal finance concepts, as a required high school offering, it still does not guarantee any financial literacy instruction for Grades K-8 and therefore receives a “C.” Rhode Island should require high school students to study financial literacy through a stand-alone course and create grade-specific standards for Grades K-8 in order to improve their grade.

²⁴⁵ <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-13.HTM>

²⁴⁶ <https://www.ri.gov/press/view/40856>

²⁴⁷ <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText21/SenateText21/S0349.pdf>

²⁴⁸ <https://www.councilforeconed.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-National-Standards-for-Personal-Financial-Education.pdf>;

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/OtherSubjects.aspx#33101172-about-the-framework>

²⁴⁹ <https://www.councilforeconed.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-National-Standards-for-Personal-Financial-Education.pdf>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required financial literacy high school course; Financial Literacy webpage
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

The Financial Literacy Instruction Act of 2005 (Act No. 38; House Bill No. 3020) mandates that “the State Board of Education shall develop or adopt curricula, materials, and guidelines for local school boards to use in implementing a program of instruction on financial literacy within courses currently offered in high schools in this State.”²⁵⁰ South Carolina offers two optional courses within the Human Services Cluster, Financial Fitness 1 and Financial Fitness 2. Each class has its own set of standards that provide robust financial literacy concepts.

Previously, in order to receive a South Carolina high school diploma, a student had to complete a one-half credit of economic which included elements of personal finance.²⁵¹ Through a provision in the 2022 state budget, lawmakers directed the Department of Education to update graduation requirements and include a semester-long personal finance class.²⁵² In this course, “Using experiential activities, students will learn the basic principles of personal finance and how to manage their money in a global economy, which include budgeting, banking, insurance, mortgages, savings, investments, inheritance, retirement, tax, and estate planning. Students will also learn about consumer protection laws, internet safety, and cyber security, enabling them to safeguard financial information against technology-based attacks.”²⁵³

Financial literacy concepts are not embedded in the South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards for K-8, except for 2nd grade, where the concepts can be found in the Economic strand.²⁵⁴

In accordance with the Financial Literacy Instruction Act, the South Carolina Department of Education has a Financial Literacy webpage with Curricula, Instructional Materials, and Personal Finance Resources.²⁵⁵

South Carolina provides financial literacy instruction through the required high school course, but does not ensure foundational learning throughout K-8 grade levels, earning a “C.” In order to improve its grade, South Carolina needs to create specific financial literacy standards for Grades K-8.

²⁵⁰ https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess116_2005-2006/bills/3020.htm

²⁵¹ <https://ed.sc.gov/index.cfm?LinkServID=9677E07B-CFFE-6A5C-AA47F98625149ABC>, pg. 127

²⁵² <https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/school-district-memoranda-archive/personal-finance-one-half-05-unit-graduation-requirement/personal-finance-one-half-05-unit-graduation-requirement-memo/>

²⁵³ <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/career-and-technical-education/programs-and-courses/cte-course-standards/personal-finance-5141-draft-standards/>

²⁵⁴ <https://ed.sc.gov/index.cfm?LinkServID=9677E07B-CFFE-6A5C-AA47F98625149ABC> pg. 19

²⁵⁵ <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/social-studies/financial-literacy/>



Tennessee

- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school stand-alone Personal Finance course; Financial literacy standards in some K-8 social studies standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards in grades 3-8.

Tennessee requires a one-half credit of a stand-alone Personal Finance course for high school graduation, ensuring robust high school financial literacy instruction. Three years of JROTC may be substituted for the requirement if the JROTC instructor has completed the Personal Finance training.²⁵⁶ Personal Finance is an elective course in the Finance career cluster for Grades 9-12, and Tennessee provides standards for the course.²⁵⁷ This requirement ensures all Tennessee high school graduates have received robust financial literacy instruction.

However, personal finance is not fully embedded in the Tennessee Academic Standards for Social Studies for grades K-8. Grades K, 1, and 2 have Economics standards which cover personal finance concepts, laying a foundation for financial literacy instruction but not ensuring it in K-8 curriculum.²⁵⁸

Tennessee does have a Financial Literacy Commission within the Department of Treasury whose mission is “to improve the lives of Tennesseans through financial literacy by providing innovative educational resources to Tennessee schools and families.”²⁵⁹ The Commission provides resources for students, families, and teachers. In 2021 the FLC was extended through 2027 by legislative action.²⁶⁰

Tennessee receives a “C” for requiring a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation but not having personal finance standards fully embedded in K-8 standards, thus not guaranteeing financial literacy instruction from kindergarten through grade 12. By creating financial literacy standards in the Grades 3-8 social studies standards, Tennessee would raise its grade to an “A” for ensuring K-12 financial literacy instruction.

²⁵⁶<https://www.tn.gov/education/families/graduation-requirements.html>

²⁵⁷ https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/ccte/fin/cte_std_personal_finance.pdf

²⁵⁸https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/ss/Social_Studies_Standards.pdf

²⁵⁹ <https://treasury.tn.gov/Financial-Education/Financial-Literacy-Commission/Education-Worth-the-Investment>

²⁶⁰ <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/112/pub/pc0048.pdf>



- **Significant Accomplishments:** Some high school financial literacy instruction embedded in required course; Financial literacy standards in some K-8 social studies standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course

There are no specific personal finance requirements for a high school diploma in Wyoming. Wyoming does require instruction in “economic systems and institutions” for high school graduation.²⁶¹ In the 2018 Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards, one of the five benchmarks for graduation in the Production, Distribution, and Consumption content standard is personal finance-related.²⁶² Furthermore, the Wyoming 2018 Mathematics Content and Performance Standards include cross-disciplinary connections to Financial Literacy in K, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades, as well as high school.²⁶³

Wyoming Education Code mandates that “each school district within the state shall provide education programs sufficient to meet uniform student content and performance standards at the level established by the state board of education in the following areas of knowledge and skills: ... life skills, including personal financial management skills.”²⁶⁴ The 2018 Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards also includes one personal finance benchmark in the five economics benchmarks for the ends of Grades 2, 5, and 8.²⁶⁵

Wyoming receives a “C” for only providing some financial literacy instruction throughout Grades K-12 through embedded standards in high school and social studies and mathematics standards in a few grades. Wyoming must require a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation in order to raise its grade to an “A.”

²⁶¹ https://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/accountability/Chapter31_CLEAN.pdf

²⁶² <https://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/standards/2018/Social-Studies-Standards.pdf>

²⁶³ <https://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/standards/2018/Math-Standards-2018.pdf>

²⁶⁴ <https://codes.findlaw.com/wy/title-21-education/wy-st-sect-21-9-101.html> (21-9-101)

²⁶⁵ <https://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/standards/2018/Social-Studies-Standards.pdf>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required one-half credit of Economics and Personal Finance for high school graduation; High school financial literacy instruction requirement; Financial literacy website; AR Finance AR Future
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

In the last several years Arkansas has made a concerted effort to increase financial literacy instruction for all of its students. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, in order to graduate from high school, Arkansas students must have completed a one-half credit in Economics and Personal Finance as well as “earn a credit in a course that includes personal and family finance in grade 9-12.”²⁶⁶ 2017 Act 480 (House Bill 1442) mandates that “The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Career Education and subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, shall develop personal and family finance standards” and that “each public high school student shall be required before graduation to earn a credit in a course take in grade ten, grade eleven, or grade twelve that includes the personal and family finance standards.”²⁶⁷ Previously, 2004 Arkansas Act 42 (Senate Bill 41) had amended the state code to add a “Personal Finance” section in which “the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Workforce Education, subject to the approval of the state board, shall develop personal finance course content guidelines and recommend textbooks to be used in a personal finance course.”[#]

The Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Career Education have embedded the high school personal finance standards into multiple existing courses so that students may meet their personal finance instruction requirement through the completion of any of those courses. These courses are Financial Literacy (.5 Career Focus credit), Quantitative Literacy (1 math credit), ADE Approved AP Macro Economics and Personal Finance (.5 economics credit), ADE Approved AP Micro Economics and Personal Finance (.5 economics credit), Economics (.5 social studies or Career Focus credit), and Financial Planning and Wealth Management (1 Career Focus credit and .5 economics credit). A district may request the Office of Curriculum Support Services to embed the personal finance standards in a different course other than the approved courses.[#] The Economics: Social Studies Curriculum Framework for the required Economics course includes specific personal financial management standards as well as embeds personal finance into multiple economics standards.[#] The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis has also developed The Tools for Teaching the Arkansas Economics and Personal Finance Course which is a curriculum guide for the Arkansas required economics/personal finance course, aligned to national and Arkansas standards.²⁶⁸

²⁶⁶ <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/curriculum-support/arkansas-graduation-requirements>

²⁶⁷

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2017/2017R/Pages/BillInformation.aspx?measureno=HB1442>

²⁶⁸ <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2003/S2/Pages/BillInformation.aspx?measureno=SB41>



Despite recent efforts to increase financial literacy in its high school students, Arkansas fails to begin personal finance instruction before high school. Arkansas's K-4 and 5-6 Social Studies standards have specific economics sections but cover few personal finance components.²⁶⁹

The Arkansas Department of Education website lists multiple websites as well as YouTube channels and teacher resources on the Personal Finance Standards webpage.²⁷⁰ In 2015, Arkansas Treasurer Milligan started the AR Finance AR Future pilot program in financial education.²⁷¹ In 2021, Senate Bill 599 established the Arkansas Financial Education Commission, which will “(1) provide financial literacy education programs to all 32 geographic areas and socioeconomic backgrounds; and (2) promote the importance of saving for education.”²⁷²

Although Arkansas has recently added a requirement for a high school personal finance course, it is part of an economics course and is only one-half credit. Because of its incomplete high school financial literacy instruction and its lack of financial literacy instruction in Grades K-8, Arkansas receives a “D.” Arkansas should increase the required high school course to a stand-alone, one credit course and develop K-8 financial literacy standards in order to raise its grade to an “A.”

²⁶⁹<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/curriculum-support/social-studies-standards-and-courses>

²⁷⁰<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/curriculum-support/personal-finance>

²⁷¹ <https://www.artreasury.gov/programs-2/ar-finance/>

²⁷² <https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Bills/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2021R%2FPublic%2FSB599.pdf>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school course with some financial literacy instruction; Financial literacy website
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement K-8 financial literacy standards

In order to graduate from a California high school, each student must take a one-half credit economics course.²⁷³ California has not adopted its own Financial Literacy standards, however in the Math Framework Appendix A, the California State Board of Education endorses “two sets of national standards that teachers may use to influence their instruction” in financial literacy, the Jump\$tart K-12 Personal Finance standards, and the National Standards for Financial Literacy provided by the Council for Economic Education. In Appendix A it is stated that time constraints “often make it impossible to offer a separate course in financial education” but financial literacy can be integrated into other content areas. Mathematics courses are “often considered a natural fit.”²⁷⁴

The History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools do not contain any personal finance standards for the economics section beyond basic concepts.²⁷⁵ However, the California State Board of Education publishes course frameworks to aid teachers in implementing state standards, and the Principles of Economics: History Social Science Framework lists “What does it mean to be financially literate?” as one of the course’s main topics.²⁷⁶ This addition of personal finance into the economics curriculum framework came from 2013 Chapter 135 (Assembly Bill No. 166) which amended Education Code so that, for grades seven through twelve, “Currently, but not prior to, the next revision of textbooks or curriculum frameworks in the social sciences, health, and mathematics curricula, the state board shall insure that these academic areas integrate components of... financial literacy, including, but not limited to, budgeting and managing credit, student loans, consumer debt, and identity theft security.”²⁷⁷ California also recommends that schools offer Financial Literacy as a ninth grade elective. However, this is not required to be offered by schools nor taken by students, and ninth grade is not the most effective grade in high school to receive specific personal finance instruction.²⁷⁸

2016 Chapter 616 (Assembly Bill No. 2546) further amended California’s Education Code so that “when the history-social science curriculum framework is revised after January 1, 2017, the Instructional Quality Commission shall consider including... age-appropriate information... on financial literacy... at least twice in each of the following grade spans: kindergarten and grades 1 to 5, inclusive, grades 6 to 8, inclusive, and grades 9 to 12, inclusive.”²⁷⁹ A bill analysis estimates that this next revision will not take place until 2024.²⁸⁰ However, as this specifies the curriculum framework, which is merely a guide for local districts, rather than state standards, the inclusion of personal finance is not guaranteeing that all

²⁷³ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gc/hs/hsgmin.asp>

²⁷⁴ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/documents/mathfwappendixa.pdf>

²⁷⁵ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>

²⁷⁶ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/documents/hssfwchapter18.pdf>

²⁷⁷ http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB166

²⁷⁸ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/documents/hssfwchapter14.pdf>, pg. 30

²⁷⁹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2546

²⁸⁰ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2546



California students will receive personal finance instruction. Furthermore, it is a suggestion rather than a mandate by the state legislature. Currently, personal finance is not covered in History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve.²⁸¹

The California Department of Education website provides a robust list of financial literacy resources in its Grades K-12 Financial Literacy Resources.²⁸²

Because it does not ensure financial literacy in required instruction through most of Grades K-12, California receives a “D” in financial literacy instruction. In order to improve its grade, California should require a stand-alone personal finance class for high school graduation and implement financial literacy standards for each grade, K-8, rather than just a few times throughout, as is currently recommended.

²⁸¹ <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>

²⁸² <https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/fl/finlitk12.asp>



District of Columbia

- **Significant accomplishments:** District of Columbia Financial Literacy Council
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

The District of Columbia Public Schools do not require a personal finance course or a course embedded with personal finance for high school graduation.²⁸³ The District of Columbia Social Studies Pre-K through Grade 12 standards include a “Principles of Economics” elective course, but the elective has no specific financial literacy standards.²⁸⁴ There are not personal finance standards for the Grades K-8 Social Studies standards, although the economics standards embedded within do occasionally contain personal finance components.²⁸⁵

The Council of the District of Columbia established the District of Columbia Financial Literacy Council through a 2008 act.²⁸⁶ In the District of Columbia Financial Literacy Council’s 2014 Strategic Recommendations and Financial Literacy Implementation Report, amongst other recommendations, the Council urged “the District of Columbia State Board of Education to adopt a specific set of academic standards for financial literacy education and for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to ensure the integration of financial literacy education within the city’s public school and public charter school curriculum.”²⁸⁷ However, the District of Columbia State Board of Education failed to integrate any financial literacy instruction following the recommendations.

The District of Columbia receives an “F,” as it fails to provide any financial literacy instruction. The District of Columbia needs to adopt the recommendations of the District of Columbia Financial Literacy Council and implement grade-specific K-8 personal finance standards. In order to further improve its grade, the District of Columbia should require a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation.

²⁸³ <https://dcps.dc.gov/graduation>

²⁸⁴ https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/Trinity%202023-24%20Dual%20Enrollment%20Course%20Handbook.pdf

²⁸⁵ https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/Trinity%202023-24%20Dual%20Enrollment%20Course%20Handbook.pdf

²⁸⁶ <https://disb.dc.gov/page/district-columbia-financial-literacy-council#:~:text=The%20District%20of%20Columbia%20Financial,literacy%20of%20the%20city's%20residents>

²⁸⁷ <https://dcps.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/disb/publication/attachments/DCFLC%202014%20Report%20Final%20Ed.pdf>, pg. 11



- **Significant Accomplishments:** Hawaii Department of Education Standards with Opportunities to Integrate Financial Literacy Concepts; Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force; Dedicated financial literacy website
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement K-8 financial literacy standards

In 2015, Hawaii established the Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force under request of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 97, Senate Draft 1, to “consider the importance and challenges of implementing financial literacy education for all public school students” and to “develop recommendations and a process for requiring every public school student to participate in a financial literacy course prior to graduating from high school.”²⁸⁸ The task force released their final report in 2016 in which they recommended that the Department of Education establish an online financial literacy resource page and “align current content standards with financial literacy concepts,” amongst other recommendations.²⁸⁹

The Hawaii Department of Education has since established and maintains a financial literacy website. Available is the Hawaii Department of Education Standards with Opportunities to Integrate Financial Literacy Concepts with financial literacy concepts matched to multiple ELA, Mathematics, CTE, Social Studies, and Science standards for K-12.²⁹⁰ The website also provides robust financial literacy resources and programs for teachers to help implement financial literacy instruction in their classrooms.²⁹¹ In 2021, Hawaii’s legislature passed a resolution “urging the Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to implement a graduation requirement of at least a half credit in financial literacy during the junior year or senior year.”²⁹²

Although Hawaii has made efforts toward increasing its financial literacy instruction, mainly through establishing the Hawaii Public Schools Financial Literacy Task Force, it still receives a “D,” as it does not ensure any substantial financial literacy instruction. Hawaii should follow the recommendation of Senate Resolution 118/House Resolution 45 and require a stand-alone personal finance course for high school graduation. Furthermore, Hawaii needs to develop K-8 grade-specific financial literacy standards in lieu of opportunities for integration in order to improve its grade.

²⁸⁸ https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/SCR97_SD1_.htm

²⁸⁹ http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/leg15_finlit.pdf

²⁹⁰ http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/Standards/HIDOEStandards_FinLit.pdf

²⁹¹ <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/FinLit/Pages/default.aspx>

²⁹² https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SR&billnumber=118&year=2021





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Some personal finance benchmarks embedded in social studies standards.
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

In 2023 the Montana Board of Education voted to add a half unit of either financial literacy or economics to its existing social studies graduation requirements starting in 2025.²⁹³ As of the publication of this report, we were not able to find stand-alone financial literacy or personal finance standards for Montana. The Montana Content Standards for Social Studies provide benchmarks for what students should know upon certain grades. Upon graduation, only one of the thirty-six benchmarks covers financial literacy.²⁹⁴ Additionally, some of the Career and Vocational Education content standards relate to personal finance.²⁹⁵

Similar standards guide K-8 social studies learning objectives. Benchmarks for what students should know at the ends of grades 4 and 8 are provided. Similar to the high school, there are only a few personal finance benchmarks for the ends of grades 4 and 8, failing to provide robust financial literacy instruction for all students.²⁹⁶

Montana receives a “D” in financial literacy, as it provides minimal guaranteed financial literacy instruction through a few standards. In order to raise its grade, Montana should require the stand-alone personal finance class as one of the social studies units as opposed to making it an option. Montana also needs to create specific personal finance standards for grades K-12, to ensure instruction in each grade.

²⁹³ <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/RuleNo.asp?RN=10.55.905>

²⁹⁴ <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/K-12-Content-Standards-Revision/Social-Studies-Standards>

²⁹⁵ <http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Career%20%26%20Technical%20Education/Docs/Standards%20and%20Guidelines/ContStds-CareerTech.pdf>

²⁹⁶ <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/K-12-Content-Standards-Revision/Social-Studies-Standards>





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Required high school course with financial literacy standards
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

The state of New York requires a one-half credit economics course for high school graduation.²⁹⁷ The recommended course for this requirement, Grade 12: Economics, the Enterprise System, and Finance, has four main standards, and half of the sub-standards under “Individual Responsibility and the Economy” are personal finance concepts.²⁹⁸ Therefore, each New York student receives some financial literacy instruction through the required high school economics course. There are also some personal finance aspects embedded within the Family and Consumer Science standards.²⁹⁹

The New York State K-8 Social Studies Framework does not include financial literacy standards. While there are economic standards for each grade, only a few align with personal finance standards, meaning all students are not guaranteed robust financial literacy instruction until their senior year of high school.³⁰⁰ Middle level students in Career and Technical Education also receive some personal finance instruction within the Financial and Consumer Literacy module.³⁰¹

In 2021, New York legislators voted to “require that the department of financial services website provide information to enhance consumer financial literacy and consumer awareness which shall include information on basic banking and personal financial management, how credit scores are determined and ways to establish good credit, options for investing and increasing savings, best practices for protecting personal information, and any other topics deemed appropriate by the superintendent”³⁰² showing some interest in increasing the level of financial literacy of New Yorkers, but no legislation pertaining to K-12 education in personal finance was passed.

New York receives a “D” in financial literacy instruction, as it does not provide substantial K-12 instruction. New York provides minimal instruction through embedded standards in the required high school economics course. In order to improve its grade and provide instruction from Grades K-12, New York needs to require a stand-alone high school personal finance course and create more personal finance standards for Grades K-8.

²⁹⁷ <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/currentdiplomarequirements.pdf>

²⁹⁸ <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/ss-framework-9-12.pdf>, pg. 48

²⁹⁹ <https://www.nysed.gov/career-technical-education/facs-learning-standards>

³⁰⁰ <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/ss-framework-k-8a2.pdf>

³⁰¹ <https://www.nysed.gov/career-technical-education/new-york-state-middle-level-cte-requirement>

³⁰² https://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S00876&term=&Summary=Y&Actions=Y





- **Significant Accomplishments:** Financial Education website
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

Alaska fails to instruct its students in financial literacy. There is no required personal finance course, nor is financial literacy embedded in K-12 standards. Graduating students must have earned three Social Studies credits, but there is no distinction for what those credits must include.³⁰³ SB99 was introduced in 2023 and would require a half credit personal finance course for graduation.³⁰⁴ Currently, the bill has passed the Senate but stalled in the House before the end of the regular session. While the bill has not passed, its movement through the legislature indicates some interest in taking steps forward in financial education.

Despite excluding financial literacy in any standards or curriculum, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development website includes Financial Education Materials and Sample Lesson Plans for teachers by linking sources from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.³⁰⁵

Alaska receives an “F” for not ensuring any financial literacy instruction for its students. In order to improve its grade to an “A,” Alaska needs to ensure financial literacy instruction from Grades K-12 through implementing grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards and requiring a high school stand-alone course.

³⁰³ https://education.alaska.gov/regs/filed/4aac_06.075.pdf

³⁰⁴ <https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/33?Root=sb%2099>

³⁰⁵ <https://education.alaska.gov/esea/titlex-c/teacherresource>



Puerto Rico

- **Significant Accomplishments:** Financial Education is integrated into the curriculum of Social Studies and Mathematics in digital lessons
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require a high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

Puerto Rico Education Reform Law 85-2018 states in Article 1.02, e., 1. that “The educational management of the school must...pursue the student to develop the skills necessary to become the engine of economic development of Puerto Rico. This includes strengthening academic achievement in STEM and STEAM, but also financial knowledge.” Article 2.04, b., 39. of the law also states that “It will include in its teaching curriculum, in accordance with the provisions of the Reorganization No. 5-2010, issues oriented to the planning and management of finances,” and “the Department will work on the design of the topics in coordination with the Institute of Financial Education of Puerto Rico.” In addition, schools must “collaborate, as far as possible, with the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Puerto Rico, Inc., the Association of Banks and the Corporation for the Supervision and Cooperative Insurance in the preparation of the material to be used in financial education.”³⁰⁶

In 2018, the Puerto Rico Department of Education established a Financial Education Program through “alliances with different organizations in the public and private sectors” to “implement an integrated curriculum on Financial Education from Kindergarten through Twelfth grade.”³⁰⁷ Puerto Rico’s Social Studies standards state that the Social Studies Program will coordinate “workshops on Financial Education and Cooperativism...in a particular way according to the need of each youth cooperative or school campus.” Additionally, junior high and high school teachers can integrate financial education workshops in their classrooms.”³⁰⁸

EverFi is the official digital financial education provider for Puerto Rico public schools. In 2018, the partnership with the Puerto Rico Department of Education made “EVERFI’s digital financial curriculum available to every elementary and high school in Puerto Rico.”³⁰⁹ The Puerto Rico Department of Education links to the EVERFI site specifically for Puerto Rico.³¹⁰ On the Puerto Rico EVERFI website, there are digital financial education lessons for grade bands 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.³¹¹ Additionally, there is a Financial Education for Teachers with additional resources for teachers that provides “critical knowledge and skills” needed to help “teach financial literacy in the classroom.”³¹²

Puerto Rico has Integrated Financial Education Lessons under the Social Studies area, with example activities based on grade-level.³¹³ At the time of publication of this report in 2023, there were several active financial literacy bills within the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico that would

³⁰⁶ <https://www.de.pr.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ley-85-2018-enmendada.pdf>

³⁰⁷ <https://de.pr.gov/noticias/da-inicio-el-programa-de-educacion-financiera-en-el-de/>

³⁰⁸ https://www.de.pr.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SERIE_A_400.pdf pg. 44

³⁰⁹ <https://everfi.com/press-releases/everfi-becomes-official-digital-financial-education-provider-puerto-rico/>

³¹⁰ <https://dedigital.dde.pr/>

³¹¹ <https://pr-de.everfi.com/>

³¹² <https://puertorico.everfi-next.net/welcome/financialeducation?locale=es>

³¹³ <https://dedigital.dde.pr/>

improve financial literacy instruction. One in particular would establish a financial education curriculum which would be required for graduation, but that legislation is pending.³¹⁴

Although Puerto Rico has established private/public partnerships in an effort to make financial literacy lessons and objectives accessible to schools, it still receives an “F” as these lessons do not appear to be required and do not include state standards in all grade levels. Puerto Rico should develop a required stand-alone course and ensure grades K-8 integrate personal finance standards in order to raise its grade.

³¹⁴ <https://sutra.oslpr.org/osl/esutra/medidareg.aspx?rid=141391>



South Dakota

- **Significant Accomplishments:** High schools required to offer Personal Finance course
- **Needs Improvement:** Needs to require high school stand-alone personal finance course and implement grade-specific K-8 financial literacy standards

In South Dakota, students must complete a one-half credit of either Personal Finance or Economics for high school graduation.³¹⁵ Students who choose to take Personal Finance for the requirement will receive robust financial literacy instruction through the course, which has five personal finance indicators.³¹⁶ However, students who choose to take Economics for the requirement will not receive financial literacy instruction, as the High School Economics standards do not include any personal finance components outside the basic functions of money and types of financial institutions.³¹⁷

2004 House Concurrent Resolution No. 1015 urged “the South Dakota Board of Education to integrate the principles of basic personal finance into the public-school curricula in South Dakota.”³¹⁸ While there are economics standards for each grade level in the South Dakota Social Studies Content Standards, none cover personal finance concepts, meaning students are not guaranteed financial literacy instruction in K-12 curriculum.³¹⁹

South Dakota receives an “F” for not guaranteeing any financial literacy instruction in Grades K-12. The high school students who choose to take Personal Finance rather than Economics receive robust financial literacy instruction, but the students who take Economics do not receive any instruction. South Dakota should require that all high school students take the Personal Finance course and should follow the recommendation of 2004 House Concurrent Resolution No. 1015 to create grade-specific financial literacy standards in Grades K-8.

³¹⁵ <https://doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements/documents/1118-Infographic.pdf>

³¹⁶ <https://doe.sd.gov/cte/documents/standards/19262-PerFinance.pdf>

³¹⁷ <https://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/SS-Standards-2023.pdf>

³¹⁸ <https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/Bill/101804.pdf?Year=2004>

³¹⁹ <https://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/documents/SDSocialS.pdf>

Summary and Recommendations

A thorough look into how each state provides, or fails to provide, personal financial education to its students reveals a future generation unprepared to enter a nation in crisis. It is APEF's hope that this report card has fully educated you on the state of financial literacy in America and has caused you to see the need for change. APEF applauds the states that achieved high marks on our report card by already guaranteeing their students substantive personal financial educations. We also commend the efforts of policymakers, educators, parents, advocates, and even students whom have and are working tirelessly to bring personal financial education to their states and schools. It is our desire that this report card has now inspired you to take action to make a change.

Beyond publishing **The Nation's Report Card on Financial Literacy** to highlight the lack of financial literacy education in public schools, APEF has taken direct action to fill the void. APEF is actively working to address the problem through aggregating and developing best practices, model legislation and curriculum. We believe that our vision for every public high school to graduate financially literate and prepared students will be met through implementing these best practices in each state currently lacking them. We envision a world in which every state receives an "A" on our report card, ensuring personal financial education for its students from Grades K-12.

APEF has develop a state model legislation for mandating a stand-alone personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement. The model legislation serves as a template for lawmakers and advocates to use to customize to their own states' needs and specifics. APEF envisions each state requiring a stand-alone personal finance course as a condition of high school graduation. This required course will help produce financially literate students prepared to enter a financially irresponsible America. The model legislation is printed below this section. If you are a lawmaker or an advocate interested in pursuing the implementation of the requirement of a stand-alone personal finance course in your state, please contact Cassie Foote at cfoote@theapef.org.

In order to develop a financially literate and responsible nation, we must begin in our public schools. The lack of personal financial education in K-12 schools nationwide is evident, but the practical steps to fill the void are also evident. APEF believes in the power of public schools to transform lives and our nation- implementing best practices in personal financial education is how we can do so.



Model Legislation

A bill to be entitled

“An act establishing a stand-alone personal finance course as a condition of high school graduation.”

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of _____:

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- a. 43% of United States adults are considered financially illiterate.
- b. Americans hold \$14.9 trillion in debt, with the average U.S. household owing \$145,000.
- c. High school seniors nationwide scored an average of 59.6% on a financial literacy exam.
- d. 33% of American teens are concerned that they don't know enough about how to manage money.
- e. Only 16% of Americans from ages 18 to 26 are “very optimistic” about their financial future.
- f. 41% of parents believe it’s important to talk with their kids about money, but are reluctant to have those conversations.
- g. Four out of five adults say they were never given an opportunity to learn about financial education.
- h. 76% of Millennials lack basic financial knowledge.
- i. Students from states with a required personal finance course have higher credit scores and lower loan delinquency rates post-graduation.
- j. 97% of teens think financial literacy is important and expressed concerns about being written off by traditional banks.
- k. 84.5% of Americans responded "Yes" or "Definitely Yes" to the question, "Do you think high school students should take personal finance courses in high school?"
- l. Students whose home states required financial education courses were found to be more likely to save, less likely to make late credit card payments, and more likely to take on a healthy amount of financial risk.
- m. Financial literacy includes the knowledge, understanding, skills, and behaviors that enable students to make responsible and effective financial decisions on a daily basis.
- n. The teaching of financial literacy skills empowers students with the tools they need to enter a globally competitive workforce and contribute as productive citizens.

Section 2. Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the ____ - ____ school year, each public high school student shall be required to earn at least one-half credit in a personal finance course as a condition of high school graduation.

Section 3. Personal finance course instruction shall include, but is not limited to:

- a) Capitalism
- b) Financial decision making
- c) Behavioral finance
- d) Psychology of Money



- e) Financial conversations (how to)
- f) Negotiation skills
- g) Personal living and finance, including budgeting and household management c. Saving and financial investment
- h) Banking and financial services
- i) Career management and employment
- j) Loans and borrowing money
- k) Credit management
- l) Insurance
- m) Taxes
- n) Economic value of postsecondary studies, including student loans and FAFSA
- o) Retirement planning
- p) Financial goals
- q) Consumer rights and responsibilities

Section 4. The personal finance course shall be a stand-alone course, not combined with other subject matter. The course shall be at least a one-half credit course and shall be offered in Grades 10, 11, and/or 12 at each public high school.

Sources of data used in model legislation:

https://gflec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/3313-Finlit_Report_FINAL-5.11.16.pdf?x37292
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/research/consumer-debt-study/>
<https://www.financialeducatorsCouncil.org/national-financial-literacy-test/#:~:text=29%20Money%20Lessons%20Every%20High,an%20average%20of%20only%2059.6%25>
<https://www.fool.com/investing/2019/04/18/us-teens-arent-optimistic-about-their-future-finan.aspx>
https://about.bankofamerica.com/content/dam/about/report-center/bmh/BOA_BMH_2016-REPORT-v5.pdf
<https://unitedfcu.com/you/advice-hub/kids-inherit-financial-habits-from-parents-studies>
<https://www.pfeef.org/2018/10/29/americas-growing-financial-literacy-problem/>
<https://www.empirestatetribune.com/est/financial-literacy-crisis>
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210412005631/en/>
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/survey-results-most-americans-agree-that-high-schools-should-teach-financial-literacy-301110417.html>
<https://www.financialeducatorsCouncil.org/impact-of-financial-literacy/#:~:text=There%20are%20abundant%20studies%20that,just%20to%20name%20a%20few.>



About the Authors of The Nation's Report Card

David A. Pickler, Esq., CFP®, CPWA®, ChFC®, CDFA®



David Pickler is the Executive Director of the American Public Education Foundation and Past President of the National School Boards Association (NSBA). As an attorney, wealth advisor and financial planner, Pickler has grown several firms into highly successful businesses in Memphis, Tennessee. However, his greatest passion is in promoting high-quality public education for every child which he says, “will help ensure America’s economic and vital national interests.”

Pickler has spent years encouraging school board members and educators to take charge as reform leaders and change agents by continuing the fight for the best public education in the United States. As a business leader and entrepreneur, he has spoken on Capitol Hill to promote the free, invaluable investment of public education. This is the message that Pickler shares in all of his speeches: If we fail to properly promote and defend public education in America, we fail the children.

Pickler’s journey as a proponent of public schools began when he became a PTA volunteer in 1989. As his dedication to the school children of Memphis grew, so did his passion for public education on a national level. After serving as a school board member for the Tennessee School Boards Association, Pickler was elected President of the National School Boards Association in 2013, leading more than 90,000 school board members. During his tenure, Pickler led the fight to stop the privatization and profitization of public schools; well-funded movements that could ultimately end the promise of public education. As part of the campaign to promote public education, David helped the NSBA launch its Army of Advocates, a movement that gained more than five million members in less than one year. Under his guidance, Pickler also established the “Stand Up 4 Public Schools” red wristband program; a simple way for people to show their support for the 50 million children and 6.2 million employees in public education.

As a community leader, Pickler has also served millions of children. He helped shape his city through philanthropic work and foundation developments by helping to raise millions of dollars for the following organizations: MOSD (Memphis Oral School for the Deaf), JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), Chickasaw Council Boy Scouts of America and Kiwanis International. Because of his work in the community, Pickler was recently named among the “Top 25 People Who Shaped Memphis” – a list containing the most influential individuals who helped Memphis grow and prosper.

In July of 2012, David was honored by the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences as a recipient of the Educators Voice Award, and in September of 2013 he received the prestigious Bammy Award as “School Board Member of the Year”. He has twice been honored as Tennessee School Board Member of the Year, and received the Distinguished Service Award a record four times from the National School Boards Association. In 2019, David was the recipient of *Invest in Others’* Catalyst Award for his work in public education.



Cassie Lynn Foote



Cassie Lynn Foote is the Assistant Executive Director of the American Public Education Foundation. Prior to joining APEF, Cassie was the Director of Operations and Workforce Development for the Tennessee Business Roundtable, an organization of senior-level business leaders that seeks to collaborate with state government and Tennessee's business organizations to develop and implement policy supporting business and economic growth in Tennessee. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and History, and from the Peabody College at Vanderbilt with a Master of Education in Leadership, Policy, and Organizations.

Cassie currently serves on the Ayers Foundation Board of Directors and has been active on the Expect More Achieve More Advisory Council, the Business and Finance Career Clusters Advisory Committee for the CTE Division of the Dept. of Education, the Tennessee ACT Council, the Pathways for Prosperity State-wide Planning Committee, the PENCIL Foundation Board of Directors, the Tennessee Scholars Advisory Council, and the Junior League of Tennessee's Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee.

Cameron Spann



As Chief Communications Officer for the American Public Education Foundation, Cameron leads the foundation's branding, marketing, social media, and nation-wide communication activities. This includes website and social media support, designing promotional materials, event preparations, and technical services for our Advisory Board. Cameron works closely with our partners to insure a coordinated, positive, pro-public education presence for American public education.

Cameron also serves as Chief Branding Officer for Pickler Companies, a suite of financial and legal firms based in Collierville, Tennessee. He is responsible for overseeing marketing initiatives within Pickler Wealth Advisors and assists the President with implementation of all marketing ideas. Cameron is also responsible for facilitating the President's community involvement on a local, regional, and national level.

Cameron graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and an emphasis in Broadcasting. He serves on the board for the Pink Ribbon Open, a 501(c)(3) that raises money, through an annual golf tournament, for breast cancer eradication. In May 2021, Cameron joined the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and its Memphis chapter. PRSA is the nation's leading



professional organization serving the communications community. Cameron also served as the Public Relations Director for the Financial Planning Association (FPA) of Greater Memphis from 2015 to 2018.

Emily Ray



Emily Ray, a native of Munford, Tennessee, is an American Education Foundation Financial Literacy intern. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Memphis in December 2020 with a bachelor's degree in English, and a minor in Creative Mass Media. Emily is passionate about writing and she loves to take complex information and present it to an audience in a way that is creative and easy to understand. When Emily is not researching or writing, she enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, preferably outdoors, or reading a great book.

Catrina Curtis



Catrina Curtis was an American Public Education Foundation Financial Literacy intern from Nesbit, Mississippi, and her research for the Vision 2020 Report Card is evident in 2021's The Nation's Report Card. She graduated summa cum laude in 2019 from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy Leadership. She is currently attending William & Mary Law School, and she hopes to pursue a career in political and election law. In her free time, Katrina enjoys spending time with her friends and family, especially her two nieces, cheering on the Ole Miss Rebels, and keeping up with. Katrina is passionate about education policy and ensuring a quality, competitive education for every American student.

Jonathan Tran



Jonathan Tran is an American Education Foundation Financial Literacy intern from Germantown, Tennessee. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology and with honors from Southern New Hampshire University in January 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Finance Essentials. Jonathan sees a future where everyone can participate in the prosperity of the economy; no matter a person's field of study. It is possible to make good personal financial decisions, but it starts with building financial literacy as soon as possible.

