

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Providing students with access to financial education instruction to instill long term financial capability.



Treasurer
Mike Pellicciotti

Senate Bill 5819

Sen. Javier Valdez (D)

House Bill 1915

Rep. Skyler Rude (R)

This legislation will ensure that all students in Washington receive financial education starting early in their educational career and as a graduation requirement so they can thrive economically for themselves, their families and communities.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Half of all U.S. states guarantee a standalone personal finance course for all high schoolers, however Washington is not one of them.

Only two percent of Washington high school students are required by their school to take a one semester personal finance course to graduate.

A total of \$9 million was appropriated to integrate financial education modules in Washington public schools in the 2021 – 2023 and 2023 – 2025 budgets, establishing a framework of financial education curriculum. School districts can access these funds to build in the financial education curriculums.



Generational poverty is often linked to the lack of financial knowledge, making financial education curriculum a critical addition to Washington's education system.

Legislation requiring financial education credits for graduation will help ensure more Washingtonians are able to manage their personal finances and significantly reduce financial strain on future generations.

WHAT IS NEEDED?



Curriculum in the Classroom

Requires public school districts to provide access to financial education to all high school students by the 2025-26 school year.



Required for Graduation

Requires students to earn at least one-half credit of financial education instruction as a graduation prerequisite beginning with the class of 2029, and gives school districts flexibility around how they provide the requirement.



Tiers of Early Learning

Establishes three tiers of instructional requirements for students in elementary and middle school by the 2026-27 school year.



Equitable Access to Resources

Financial education instruction requirements apply to all public schools, charter schools, and tribal education compact schools.

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