

Financial Literacy Education

Why require Financial Literacy Education?

Maryland is fortunate to lead the nation in providing a quality education for students. The state also benefits from having a vibrant economy. As the requirements for the global economy have changed, so have the educational needs of our students. Today, more than ever before, graduates must be financially literate in order to be prepared for college, careers, and responsible living. While many school systems offer financial literacy education, Maryland is expanding access to ensure that all students have a strong foundation to make informed, financial decisions and accomplish their goals.

What is Maryland doing to prepare students to be Financially Literate?

One of the steps Maryland is taking is to develop and implement the Maryland State Curriculum for Personal Financial Literacy Education. The Maryland State Department of Education began by establishing the Financial Literacy Education Advisory Council and Design Team in response to the recommendations of the General Assembly's Task Force to Study How to Improve Financial Literacy Education in the State.

The council and design team developed the standards and curriculum based on the Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education as well as Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Personal Financial Literacy. Maryland's curriculum reflects a broad definition of personal finance and includes the application of knowledge and skills that can be embedded in existing courses across all grade levels or addressed through stand-alone courses, including social studies, economics, business classes, and family and consumer sciences.

The Maryland State Curriculum for Personal Financial Literacy Education lays the foundation for a new generation of competent, confident, and financially literate adults. It provides standards, indicators, and objectives for use in creating local curricula—defining what students should know and be able to do.



"Financial education is the process by which people improve their understanding of financial products, services and concepts, so they are empowered to make informed choices, avoid pitfalls, know where to go for help, and take other actions to improve their present and long-term financial well-being"

*- 2008 President's Advisory
Council on Financial Literacy
Annual Report*

When will the Financial Literacy Curriculum be implemented?

In June of 2010, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted regulations requiring local school systems to offer a program of instruction in financial literacy for grades three through twelve beginning in September 2011. During the 2010-2011 school-year, state and local school staff will work to identify resources, align curriculum, as well as participate in professional development in preparation for the 2011 implementation.

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Financial Literacy Education

Grades 3-12 Standards

Standard 1:

Make informed, financially responsible decisions

Students will apply financial literacy reasoning in order to make informed, financially responsible decisions.

Standard 2:

Relate careers, education, and income

Students will relate choices regarding their education and career paths to earning potential.

Standard 3:

Plan and manage money

Students will develop skills to plan and manage money effectively by identifying financial goals and developing spending plans.

Standard 4:

Manage credit and debt

Students will develop skills to make informed decisions about incurring debt and maintaining credit worthiness.

Standard 5:

Create and build wealth

Students will develop skills to plan and achieve long-term goals related to saving and investing in order to build financial security and wealth.

Standard 6:

Manage risks and preserve wealth

Students will develop financial planning skills to minimize financial setbacks.



“Financial literacy is not an end in itself, but a step-by-step process. It begins in childhood and continues throughout a person’s life all the way to retirement. Instilling the financial literacy message in children is especially important, because they will carry it for the rest of their lives...”

- George Carl, Past Chair
National CPA Financial Literacy
Commission

“As students transition into a career or post-secondary education, they face many decisions, including the management of finances. Thus, it is important to pair their transition with a sound understanding of financial literacy. Then, students can connect their financial literacy education to real-world experiences as they pursue opportunities to build their assets.”

- Charlene Dukes, Vice President
Maryland State Board of Education,
Member of the Task Force on the
Study of
How to Improve Financial Literacy
in the State, and President of Prince
George’s Community College

“Teenagers have a great deal of buying power, so this is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn how to make good decisions with their finances at an early stage in their lives, which will benefit them enormously as they grow into adulthood.”

- Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

