

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-Seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS**

**REENGROSSED**

LLS NO. 26-0714.03 Payton Gibson x2365

**HOUSE BILL 26-009**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Wells**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Mitchell, Simmons, Delacruz**

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**House Committees**

Education (K–12)

**Senate Committees**

Not assigned

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

**CONCERNING FINANCIAL EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS BEGINNING THE  
2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <https://saleg.uscgov.com>)*

This bill requires public high schools to provide instruction in basic financial literacy beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year. The bill establishes a statewide requirement that students receive education in fundamental personal finance topics prior to graduation, with the goal of improving financial preparedness and long-term economic stability for graduates.

**Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.**

Under the bill, school districts must offer a financial literacy course or incorporate financial literacy instruction into an existing course that meets state instructional standards. Students entering ninth grade during or after the 2026–2027 academic year must complete the course as a graduation requirement.

The Department of Education is directed to develop model curriculum standards covering topics such as budgeting, banking, credit and loans, taxes, consumer protection, insurance, postsecondary education financing, and long-term financial planning. School districts retain flexibility to adopt the model curriculum or develop equivalent programs that meet or exceed state standards.

The legislation also directs the Department of Education to provide guidance and implementation support to school districts and to report to the Governor and General Assembly on program implementation and outcomes.

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**1** *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San*  
**2** *Andreas:*  
**3** **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This bill shall be known and cited  
**4** as the “High School Financial Literacy Education Act.”  
**5** **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION.** The General  
**6** Assembly hereby finds and declares that: (a) Financial literacy is  
**7** an essential life skill necessary for responsible participation in  
**8** modern economic life. (b) Many students graduate from high  
**9** school without basic knowledge of budgeting, credit, taxes,  
**10** savings, loans, or long-term financial planning. (c) Early  
**11** education in personal finance improves financial stability, reduces  
**12** long-term debt burdens, and promotes informed economic  
**13** decision-making. (d) Schools play a critical role in preparing  
**14** students for adulthood, employment, and independent living. (e) It  
**15** is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that all students  
**16** graduating from public high schools receive instruction in  
**17** fundamental financial skills prior to graduation. **SECTION 3.**  
**18** **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Act, unless the context

1 otherwise requires: (a) “Department” means the Department of  
2 Education. (b) “Financial literacy course” means a course or  
3 instructional unit designed to teach fundamental personal finance  
4 skills, including budgeting, saving, credit management, taxes,  
5 consumer protection, and financial planning. (c) “Public high  
6 school” means any public secondary school serving grades nine  
7 through twelve within the state. **SECTION 4. REQUIRED**  
8 **FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE.** (a) Beginning with the  
9 2026–2027 academic year, each public high school shall provide a  
10 financial literacy course to students enrolled in grades nine  
11 through twelve. (b) Completion of a financial literacy course at  
12 any time during grades nine through twelve shall be required for  
13 graduation. (c) School districts may satisfy this requirement by:  
14 (I) Offering a standalone semester course; or (II) Incorporating  
15 financial literacy instruction into an existing economics,  
16 mathematics, or social studies course, provided minimum  
17 instructional standards are met. (d) A financial literacy course  
18 required under this section shall include not less than one-half  
19 academic credit or a minimum of sixty instructional hours of  
20 financial literacy instruction prior to graduation. (e) Successful  
21 completion of the financial literacy requirement shall include  
22 demonstration of competency through coursework, project-based  
23 assessment, or examination as determined by the school district  
24 consistent with standards adopted by the Department. **SECTION**  
25 **5. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS.** (a) The Department of  
26 Education shall develop model curriculum standards that include  
27 instruction in: (I) Budgeting and personal financial planning; (II)  
28 Banking and savings; (III) Credit scores, loans, and interest; (IV)  
29 Taxes and payroll deductions; (V) Consumer protection and fraud  
30 prevention; (VI) Insurance and risk management; (VII)  
31 Postsecondary education financing and student loans; including  
32 loan repayment timelines, interest capitalization, and long-term  
33 repayment cost comparisons, and (VIII) Long-term savings and

1 retirement fundamentals; (IX) Completion of a simulated personal  
2 budget based upon real-world income and living expenses; (X)  
3 Instruction concerning rental agreements, mortgages, and housing  
4 costs; (XI) Understanding employment benefits, including health  
5 insurance and retirement plans; (XII) Filing of a simulated state  
6 and federal income tax return; and (XIII) Instruction regarding  
7 predatory lending, debt collection practices, and financial scams;  
8 (XIV) and Practical banking skills including opening and  
9 managing checking and savings accounts, electronic payments,  
10 debit cards, and avoiding overdraft fees; (XV) Responsible use of  
11 credit cards, interest accumulation, minimum payments, and  
12 strategies for avoiding long-term revolving debt; (XVI) Consumer  
13 rights and protections under state and federal law, including  
14 dispute resolution, identity theft protection, and credit report  
15 correction procedures; and (XVII) Basic principles of  
16 entrepreneurship, small business finance, and independent  
17 contracting income; and (XVIII) Instruction regarding completion  
18 of financial aid applications including the Free Application for  
19 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or any successor form. (b) School  
20 districts may adopt the model curriculum or develop equivalent  
21 programs that meet or exceed state standards. (I) The Department  
22 shall not require school districts to adopt any specific curriculum  
23 provider. (c) Curriculum standards shall include instruction  
24 regarding student loan repayment options, apprenticeship  
25 pathways, military education benefits, and alternatives to  
26 postsecondary degree programs. **SECTION 6.**  
27 **IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT.** (a) The Department of  
28 Education shall provide guidance, instructional resources, and  
29 professional development opportunities to assist districts in  
30 implementation. (b) Nothing in this Act shall require the hiring of  
31 additional staff if existing faculty are qualified to teach the course.  
32 (c) Schools may partner with community organizations or  
33 financial professionals, provided instruction remains

1 noncommercial and free from product endorsement. (d)  
2 Instruction provided pursuant to this Act shall remain free from  
3 commercial advertising, branding, solicitation, or promotion of  
4 specific financial products, institutions, or services. Any  
5 partnership authorized under subsection (c) of this section shall be  
6 educational in nature and shall not permit marketing to students.  
7 (e) The Department shall develop voluntary professional  
8 development programs and instructional certification guidance to  
9 assist educators in delivering financial literacy instruction  
10 consistent with statewide standards.(f) The Department shall  
11 ensure that curriculum materials developed under this Act are  
12 accessible to rural districts, online schools, and students with  
13 disabilities, including availability through digital platforms at no  
14 cost to school districts. (g) School districts are encouraged to  
15 make financial literacy materials available to parents and  
16 guardians and may offer voluntary workshops or informational  
17 sessions regarding financial planning and student loan awareness.  
18 **SECTION 7. REPORTING.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, the  
19 Department of Education shall submit an annual report to the  
20 Governor and the General Assembly summarizing: (I)  
21 Implementation status across school districts; (II) Student  
22 participation and completion rates; (III) Demonstrated student  
23 competency outcomes where available; and (IV)  
24 Recommendations for improving financial literacy education  
25 statewide. (V) Evaluation of student financial literacy  
26 improvements based on standardized assessment tools or surveys  
27 where available. **SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.**  
28 The Department of Education may promulgate rules necessary to  
29 implement this Act. **SECTION 8.5. IMPLEMENTATION**  
30 **EFFORTS.** School districts demonstrating good-faith  
31 implementation efforts but requiring additional time for  
32 curriculum alignment or educator training may request a one-year  
33 implementation extension from the Department. **SECTION 9.**

**1** EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.