

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

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. 26-0714.02 Payton Gibson x2365

HOUSE BILL 26-009

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Wells

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitchell, Simmons, Delacruz

House Committees

Education (K–12)

Senate Committees

Not assigned

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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.

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 shall
12 be required for graduation for students entering ninth grade during
13 or after the 2026–2027 academic year. (c) School districts may
14 satisfy this requirement by: (I) Offering a standalone semester
15 course; or (II) Incorporating financial literacy instruction into an
16 existing economics, mathematics, or social studies course,
17 provided minimum instructional standards are met. (d) A financial
18 literacy course required under this section shall include not less
19 than one-half academic credit or a minimum of sixty instructional
20 hours of financial literacy instruction prior to graduation. (e)
21 Successful completion of the financial literacy requirement shall
22 include demonstration of competency through coursework,
23 project-based assessment, or examination as determined by the
24 school district consistent with standards adopted by the
25 Department. **SECTION 5. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS.**
26 (a) The Department of Education shall develop model curriculum
27 standards that include instruction in: (I) Budgeting and personal
28 financial planning; (II) Banking and savings; (III) Credit scores,
29 loans, and interest; (IV) Taxes and payroll deductions; (V)
30 Consumer protection and fraud prevention; (VI) Insurance and
31 risk management; (VII) Postsecondary education financing and
32 student loans; and (VIII) Long-term savings and retirement
33 fundamentals; (IX) Completion of a simulated personal budget

1 based upon real-world income and living expenses; (X)
2 Instruction concerning rental agreements, mortgages, and housing
3 costs; (XI) Understanding employment benefits, including health
4 insurance and retirement plans; (XII) Filing of a simulated state
5 and federal income tax return; and (XIII) Instruction regarding
6 predatory lending, debt collection practices, and financial scams.
7 (b) School districts may adopt the model curriculum or develop
8 equivalent programs that meet or exceed state standards. (c)
9 Curriculum standards shall include instruction regarding student
10 loan repayment options, apprenticeship pathways, military
11 education benefits, and alternatives to postsecondary degree
12 programs. **SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT.**
13 (a) The Department of Education shall provide guidance,
14 instructional resources, and professional development
15 opportunities to assist districts in implementation. (b) Nothing in
16 this Act shall require the hiring of additional staff if existing
17 faculty are qualified to teach the course. (c) Schools may partner
18 with community organizations or financial professionals, provided
19 instruction remains noncommercial and free from product
20 endorsement. (d) Instruction provided pursuant to this Act shall
21 remain free from commercial advertising, branding, solicitation,
22 or promotion of specific financial products, institutions, or
23 services. Any partnership authorized under subsection (c) of this
24 section shall be educational in nature and shall not permit
25 marketing to students. (e) The Department shall develop voluntary
26 professional development programs and instructional certification
27 guidance to assist educators in delivering financial literacy
28 instruction consistent with statewide standards. (f) The Department
29 shall ensure that curriculum materials developed under this Act
30 are accessible to rural districts, online schools, and students with
31 disabilities, including availability through digital platforms at no
32 cost to school districts. **SECTION 7. REPORTING.** (a)
33 Beginning January 1, 2027, the Department of Education shall

1 submit an annual report to the Governor and the General
2 Assembly summarizing: (I) Implementation status across school
3 districts; (II) Student participation and completion rates; (III)
4 Demonstrated student competency outcomes where available; and
5 (IV) Recommendations for improving financial literacy education
6 statewide. **SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.** The
7 Department of Education may promulgate rules necessary to
8 implement this Act. **SECTION 8.5. IMPLEMENTATION**
9 **EFFORTS.** School districts demonstrating good-faith
10 implementation efforts but requiring additional time for
11 curriculum alignment or educator training may request a one-year
12 implementation extension from the Department. **SECTION 9.**
13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.