

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

REVISED

LLS NO. 26-0714.04 Payton Gibson x2365

HOUSE BILL 26-009

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House Committees

Education (K–12)

Senate Committees

Health, Education & Human Capital

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 begin
10 implementation, with full compliance required no later than the
11 2027–2028 academic year. (b) Completion of a financial literacy
12 course at any time during grades nine through twelve shall be
13 required for graduation. (c) School districts may satisfy this
14 requirement by: (I) Offering a standalone semester course; or (II)
15 Incorporating financial literacy instruction into an existing
16 economics, mathematics, or social studies course, provided
17 minimum instructional standards are met. (d) A financial literacy
18 course required under this section shall include not less than
19 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; including loan repayment timelines, interest
33 capitalization, and long-term repayment cost comparisons, and

1 (VIII) Long-term savings and retirement fundamentals; (IX)
2 Completion of a simulated personal budget based upon real-world
3 income and living expenses; (X) Instruction concerning rental
4 agreements, mortgages, and housing costs; (XI) Understanding
5 employment benefits, including health insurance and retirement
6 plans; (XII) Filing of a simulated state and federal income tax
7 return; and (XIII) Instruction regarding predatory lending, debt
8 collection practices, and financial scams; (XIV) and Practical
9 banking skills including opening and managing checking and
10 savings accounts, electronic payments, debit cards, and avoiding
11 overdraft fees; (XV) Responsible use of credit cards, interest
12 accumulation, minimum payments, and strategies for avoiding
13 long-term revolving debt; (XVI) Consumer rights and protections
14 under state and federal law, including dispute resolution, identity
15 theft protection, and credit report correction procedures; and
16 (XVII) Basic principles of entrepreneurship, small business
17 finance, and independent contracting income; and (XVIII)
18 Instruction regarding completion of financial aid applications
19 including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
20 or any successor form, provided that no student shall be required
21 to submit such application as a condition of course completion or
22 graduation. (b) School districts may adopt the model curriculum
23 or develop equivalent programs that meet or exceed state
24 standards. (I) The Department shall not require school districts to
25 adopt any specific curriculum provider. (c) Curriculum standards
26 shall include instruction regarding student loan repayment
27 options, apprenticeship pathways, military education benefits, and
28 alternatives to postsecondary degree programs. **SECTION 6.**
29 **IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT.** (a) The Department of
30 Education shall provide guidance, instructional resources, and
31 professional development opportunities to assist districts in
32 implementation. (b) Nothing in this Act shall require the hiring of
33 additional staff if existing faculty are qualified to teach the course.

1 (c) Schools may partner with community organizations or
2 financial professionals, provided instruction remains
3 noncommercial and free from product endorsement. (d)
4 Instruction provided pursuant to this Act shall remain free from
5 commercial advertising, branding, solicitation, or promotion of
6 specific financial products, institutions, or services. Any
7 partnership authorized under subsection (c) of this section shall be
8 educational in nature and shall not permit marketing to students.
9 (e) The Department shall develop voluntary professional
10 development programs and instructional certification guidance to
11 assist educators in delivering financial literacy instruction
12 consistent with statewide standards.(f) The Department shall
13 ensure that curriculum materials developed under this Act are
14 accessible to rural districts, online schools, and students with
15 disabilities, including availability through digital platforms at no
16 cost to school districts. (g) School districts are encouraged to
17 make financial literacy materials available to parents and
18 guardians and may offer voluntary workshops or informational
19 sessions regarding financial planning and student loan awareness.
20 (h) The Department shall establish minimum qualification
21 guidelines for educators providing financial literacy instruction,
22 which may include existing licensure, relevant coursework, or
23 professional development completion. (i) Subject to
24 appropriation, the Department may establish a grant program to
25 assist school districts with curriculum development, instructional
26 materials, and teacher training necessary to implement this Act,
27 with priority given to rural and under-resourced districts.
28 **SECTION 7. REPORTING.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, the
29 Department of Education shall submit an annual report to the
30 Governor and the General Assembly summarizing: (I)
31 Implementation status across school districts; (II) Student
32 participation and completion rates; (III) Demonstrated student
33 competency outcomes where available; and (IV)

1 Recommendations for improving financial literacy education
2 statewide. (V) Evaluation of student financial literacy
3 improvements based on standardized assessment tools or surveys
4 where available; and (VI) Disaggregated data by district size,
5 geographic region, and student demographics to identify
6 disparities in access and outcomes. **SECTION 8.**
7 **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.** The Department of Education
8 may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.
9 **SECTION 8.5. IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS.** School
10 districts demonstrating good-faith implementation efforts but
11 requiring additional time for curriculum alignment or educator
12 training may request a one-year implementation extension from
13 the Department. **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall
14 take effect July 1, 2026.