

FINANCIAL EDUCATION



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

Senate Bill 5849 (2026 Legislative Session)

- Sen. Adrian Cortes (D)
- Sen. Tina Orwall (D)
- Sen. Javier Valdez (D)
- Sen. Marcus Riccelli (D)
- Sen. Chris Gildon (R)
- Sen. Vandana Slatter (D)
- Sen. Bob Hasegawa (D)
- Sen. Yasmin Trudeau (D)
- Sen. T'wina Nobles (D)
- Sen. Claire Wilson (D)

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, because no one should be reliant on how good their parents are with money as to whether or not they have the tools to be able to navigate the complexities of today's financial systems.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

More than 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.

In 2025, a series of roundtable discussions provided opportunities to collect feedback from stakeholders across Washington, including the Financial Education Public Private Partnership (FEPPP), the Washington Council for Economic and Financial Education, students, and educators, and helped ensure adherence with Future Ready recommendations.



Required for Graduation

Requires students to meet high school learning standards related to financial education, beginning no later than with the class of 2033, or as recommended by the state board of education, and aligns with the State Board of Education's Future Ready directive.



Equitable Access to Resources

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

WHAT'S NEEDED?

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.

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