
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 267 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DRISCOLL, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, T. DAVIS,
NEILSON, FREEMAN, WARREN, KINSEY, BARRAR, HILL-EVANS, STAATS
AND KAUFER, JANUARY 29, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 29, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code
7 and for economic education and personal financial literacy
8 programs, providing for personal finance instruction and for
9 capstone course in personal finance as graduation requirement
10 and establishing the Personal Finance Education Fund; and
11 making an appropriation.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Sections 1511 and 1551 of the act of March 10,
15 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
16 are amended to read:

17 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every
18 elementary public and private school, established and maintained
19 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in
20 the English language and from English texts: English, including
21 spelling, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, the
22 history of the United States and of Pennsylvania, civics,

1 including loyalty to the State and National Government, personal
2 finance, safety education, and the humane treatment of birds and
3 animals, health, including physical education, and physiology,
4 music and art. Other subjects shall be taught in the public
5 elementary schools and also in the public high schools as may be
6 prescribed by the standards of the State Board of Education. All
7 such subjects, except foreign languages, shall be taught in the
8 English language and from English texts: Provided, however,
9 That, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public
10 Instruction, the teaching of subjects in a language other than
11 English may be permitted as part of a sequence in foreign
12 language study or as part of a bilingual education program if
13 the teaching personnel are properly certified in the subject
14 fields. Each school district shall provide and distribute to
15 each pupil, enrolled in the eighth grade of the public schools,
16 one illustrated copy of the National Flag Code, and shall, from
17 time to time, make available such copies as are necessary for
18 replacements from year to year. It shall be the duty of each
19 teacher in the public schools to make such use of the code as
20 may, from time to time, seem proper.

21 Section 1551. [Economic Education and Personal Financial
22 Literacy] Personal Finance Education Programs.--(a) The
23 department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

24 [(1) Provide resource information on economics, economic
25 education and personal financial literacy to educators and
26 public and private schools and organizations.]

27 (1.1) Ensure that all recipients of a high school diploma in
28 this Commonwealth are proficient in personal finance.

29 (1.2) Develop stand-alone kindergarten through grade twelve
30 academic standards for personal finance that align with this

1 section, sections 1551.1 and 1551.2 and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4
2 (relating to academic standards and assessment).

3 (1.3) Provide resource information on personal finance to
4 educators and public and private schools and organizations.

5 (1.4) Within one year after the effective date of this
6 paragraph, submit a report to the Education Committee of the
7 Senate and the Education Committee of the House of
8 Representatives with data on Statewide assessment results for
9 questions relating to financial literacy.

10 (2) Provide for the distribution, including through the
11 department's Internet website, to school entities or private,
12 nonpublic, elementary or secondary schools in this Commonwealth,
13 teacher curriculum materials and other available resources,
14 including [economic] personal finance education [partnership]
15 programs[, on economic education and personal financial
16 literacy, including the basic principle involved with earning,
17 spending, saving and investing money. The materials shall align
18 with and complement existing State standards for Economics,
19 Family and Consumer Science, and Career Education and Work as
20 set forth in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards
21 and assessment)]. The materials shall align with State standards
22 for personal finance education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 that the
23 department develops in accordance with this act.

24 [(3) Identify and recognize Commonwealth schools that
25 implement exemplary economic and economic education and personal
26 financial literacy curricula at each benchmark as set forth in
27 existing State standards for Economics, Family and Consumer
28 Science, and Career Education and Work as set forth in 22 Pa.
29 Code Ch. 4.]

30 (4) Maintain an inventory of [economic education and

1 personal financial literacy] personal finance materials,
2 programs and resources available in Commonwealth agencies.

3 (b) In distributing materials and resources for use in
4 schools, the department shall consider those currently available
5 through international, national, Statewide and local economic,
6 banking trade and personal finance education organizations.

7 [(c) (1) The department shall convene a task force on
8 economic education and personal financial literacy education
9 within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section.

10 (2) The task force shall consist of nine (9) members
11 appointed by the secretary, in consultation with the Secretary
12 of Banking, representing school administrators, finance or
13 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,
14 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher
15 education having a background in or knowledge of personal
16 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial
17 literacy education. The task force shall elect one (1) of its
18 members to serve as chairperson.

19 (3) The task force shall:

20 (i) Assess the trends and needs in economic education and
21 personal financial literacy.

22 (ii) Consider the manner in which any funds are used to
23 support economic education and personal financial literacy
24 activities.

25 (iii) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General
26 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve
27 economic education and personal financial literacy, pursuant to
28 the preparation and submittal of the report required by
29 subsection (d).]

30 (c.1) (1) The Office of Personal Finance Education is

1 established in the department to oversee personal finance
2 education programs.

3 (2) The Office of Personal Finance Education shall:

4 (i) Assess the trends and needs in personal finance
5 education.

6 (ii) After completing the assessment under subparagraph (i),
7 assist in developing personal finance curricula in consultation
8 with the State Treasurer, school administrators, finance or
9 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,
10 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher
11 education having a background in or knowledge of personal
12 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial
13 literacy education.

14 (iii) Create professional development programs for faculty
15 to teach personal finance.

16 (iv) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General
17 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve
18 personal finance education and personal financial literacy,
19 pursuant to the preparation and submittal of the report required
20 by subsection (d).

21 (d) The secretary and the [Secretary of Banking] State
22 Treasurer shall jointly prepare and submit[, in conjunction with
23 the task force,] a biennial report to the Governor and the
24 General Assembly on the status of [economic education and]
25 personal financial literacy programs in this Commonwealth. In
26 addition to the recommendations made in accordance with
27 subsection [(c) (3) (iii)] (c.1) (2) (iv), the report shall outline
28 [economic education and personal financial literacy] personal
29 finance education programs and personal financial literacy
30 achievements, highlight new initiatives and recommend future

1 program needs.

2 [(e) The department may apply for any Federal, State or
3 other funding that may be available to carry out the provisions
4 of this section and may also use such unencumbered funds for
5 grants to school entities and other measures to encourage the
6 implementation of economic education and personal financial
7 literacy education programs.]

8 (e.1) The department may implement this section by
9 distributing grants to school entities for personal finance
10 education programs and professional development with funding
11 from any of the following sources:

12 (1) A State appropriation.

13 (2) Any Federal, State or other source that may be available
14 to carry out the provisions of this section.

15 (f) The following words and phrases when used in this
16 section shall have the meanings given to them in this
17 subsection:

18 "Department." The Department of Education of the
19 Commonwealth.

20 ["Personal financial literacy." The integration of various
21 factors relating to personal financial management, including
22 understanding financial institutions, using money, learning to
23 manage personal assets and liabilities, creating budgets and any
24 other factors that may assist an individual in this Commonwealth
25 to be financially responsible.]

26 "Personal finance." The principles and methods that
27 individuals use to acquire and manage income and assets.

28 "Personal financial literacy." The ability to use knowledge
29 and skills to manage one's financial resources for lifetime
30 financial security.

1 "School entity." A public school district, charter school,
2 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-
3 technical school.

4 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

5 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

6 Section 1551.1. Personal Finance Instruction.--(a)

7 Beginning with school year 2019-2020 and each school year
8 thereafter, each public school student shall receive instruction
9 in personal finance from kindergarten through grade twelve. The
10 instruction shall be aligned to the kindergarten through grade
11 twelve academic standards for personal finance and may be
12 integrated within mathematics, economics, social studies,
13 language arts, business education or family and consumer science
14 courses of study required in accordance with the State Board of
15 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into
16 other appropriate courses of study.

17 (b) The instruction shall:

18 (1) Be age appropriate.

19 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

20 (3) Communicate the connection between personal finance
21 concepts, broader economic concepts and age-appropriate
22 situations a student may experience.

23 (4) Communicate personal finance concepts, including, but
24 not limited to, the following:

25 (i) Money management.

26 (ii) Earning income.

27 (iii) Borrowing money.

28 (iv) Financial services.

29 (v) Risk management.

30 (vi) Saving and investing.

1 (vii) Other personal finance concepts specified by the State
2 Board of Education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic
3 standards and assessment).

4 (5) Prepare a student for life after graduation.

5 Section 1551.2. Capstone Course in Personal Finance as
6 Graduation Requirement.--(a) The State Board of Education shall
7 require every candidate for a full high school diploma after
8 September 2019 to receive at least one (1) semester of
9 instruction in a stand-alone capstone course relating to
10 personal finance at some time during grade eleven or twelve of
11 the candidate's educational career.

12 (b) In order to fulfill this graduation requirement, school
13 districts may choose from several delivery options for offering
14 the course, including classroom instruction, which shall be the
15 equivalent of one (1) semester or one-half (0.5) credit, or as a
16 standards-aligned, self-paced online or blended course which
17 includes a district-approved, end-of-course assessment.

18 (c) Each school entity may utilize educational materials as
19 provided for in section 1551 for the purpose of fulfilling this
20 graduation requirement.

21 (d) The Department of Education shall make available and
22 conduct professional development to school districts that
23 request assistance in implementing the provisions of this
24 section.

25 (e) As used in this section, "capstone course" means a
26 course of study that:

27 (1) occurs during grade eleven or twelve of a student's high
28 school career;

29 (2) is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole
30 of the student's learning throughout the student's years of

1 education on a particular subject;

2 (3) is a comprehensive review of the subject matter being
3 considered; and

4 (4) effectively culminates in each student demonstrating a
5 comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

6 Section 1551.3. Personal Finance Education Fund.--(a) The
7 Personal Finance Education Fund is established in the State
8 Treasury. The money of the fund shall be used for grants under
9 section 1551(e.1).

10 (b) The fund shall consist of all money collected by the
11 Commonwealth under subsection (c) and money solicited by the
12 State Treasurer under subsection (d).

13 (c) (1) The Department of Revenue shall provide a space on
14 the Pennsylvania individual income tax return form whereby an
15 individual may voluntarily designate a contribution of any
16 amount desired to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

17 (2) The amount designated under paragraph (1) by an
18 individual on the income tax return form shall be deducted from
19 the tax refund to which that individual is entitled and shall
20 not constitute a charge against the income tax revenues due to
21 the Commonwealth.

22 (3) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the
23 total amount designated pursuant to this subsection, less
24 reasonable administrative costs, and shall report the amount to
25 the State Treasurer, who shall transfer the amount from the
26 General Fund to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

27 (d) The State Treasurer shall solicit money for the Personal
28 Finance Education Fund and may designate employes of the
29 Treasury Department to carry out this duty.

30 Section 3. The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to

1 the Department of Education for the purpose of administering
2 this act.

3 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.