

# Delaware Valley School District

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Gina Vives, Ph.D., Director

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Rosemary M. Brown  
State Representative  
189th Legislative District  
P.O. Box 869  
Marshall's Creek, PA 18335

Dear State Representative Brown:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding possible legislation requiring every high school student to complete a financial literacy course as a graduation requirement. At the Delaware Valley School District, we are in agreement with you concerning the importance of personal economic well-being. We currently offer an elective to our high school students that encompasses the activities you have listed on page three under (b) of your Draft Financial Literacy Bill. However, ours is not a required course. Per PA Academic Standards, we do include Budgeting and Credit Education, two of the seven financial activities that you have identified, in our course of study 9th Grade Family and Consumer Science. This is a required course for all 9th grade students.

One of the issues we deal with in public education is how to successfully educate our students in all required disciplines and skills in the amount of time that is allocated. When I met with Dr. James Purcell, Director of Secondary Education and Mrs. Maura Angle, Business and Finance Department Chairperson and teacher, to discuss your draft bill, we debated the possibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) incorporating the topics/activities you have listed into the current Family and Consumer Science (FACS) standards. Another suggestion is to remove the existing academic standards in FACS that pertain to Budgeting and Credit Education and combine them with the other five topics/activities you have listed. This would enable districts to replace the FACS required course with a Personal Financial Literacy course, which could possibly be taught under a Business or Social Studies certification, while maintaining a revised FACS course devoid of these topics, as an elective. Another possibility is for the state to adopt/approve an online Personal Finance Literacy course or module that students would be required to take either on or off campus, as each district determined according to need and time constraints. Depending on the activities, this might be a quarter or a half credit course.

I hope that our suggestions will help you in some way as you move forward with your draft bill. Please let me know if we may be of further assistance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gina Vives  
Director of Curriculum and Technology

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Sent 6/17/14 ES

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