
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 364 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, FONTANA, YUDICHAK, GORDNER, SCHWANK,
COSTA, HUGHES, RAFFERTY, AUMENT, STREET, BOSCOLA AND BROWNE,
FEBRUARY 15, 2017

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

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

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

25 (4) Maintain an inventory of [economic education and
26 personal financial literacy] personal finance materials,
27 programs and resources available in Commonwealth agencies.

28 (b) In distributing materials and resources for use in
29 schools, the department shall consider those currently available
30 through international, national, Statewide and local economic,

1 banking trade and personal finance education organizations.

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

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

14 (3) The task force shall:

15 (i) Assess the trends and needs in economic education and
16 personal financial literacy.

17 (ii) Consider the manner in which any funds are used to
18 support economic education and personal financial literacy
19 activities.

20 (iii) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General
21 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve
22 economic education and personal financial literacy, pursuant to
23 the preparation and submittal of the report required by
24 subsection (d).]

25 (c.1) (1) The Office of Personal Finance Education is
26 established in the department to oversee personal finance
27 education programs.

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

29 (i) Assess the trends and needs in personal finance
30 education.

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

9 (iii) Create professional development programs for faculty
10 to teach personal finance.

11 (iv) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General
12 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve
13 personal finance education and personal financial literacy,
14 pursuant to the preparation and submittal of the report required
15 by subsection (d).

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

27 [(e) The department may apply for any Federal, State or
28 other funding that may be available to carry out the provisions
29 of this section and may also use such unencumbered funds for
30 grants to school entities and other measures to encourage the

1 implementation of economic education and personal financial
2 literacy education programs.]

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

7 (1) A State appropriation.

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

10 (f) The following words and phrases when used in this
11 section shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 subsection:

13 "Department." The Department of Education of the
14 Commonwealth.

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

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

23 "Personal financial literacy." The ability to use knowledge
24 and skills to manage one's financial resources for lifetime
25 financial security.

26 "School entity." A public school district, charter school,
27 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-
28 technical school.

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

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

1 Section 1551.1. Personal Finance Instruction.--(a)
2 Beginning with school year 2016-2017 and each school year
3 thereafter, each public school student shall receive instruction
4 in personal finance from kindergarten through grade twelve. The
5 instruction shall be aligned to the kindergarten through grade
6 twelve academic standards for personal finance and may be
7 integrated within mathematics, economics, social studies,
8 language arts, business education or family and consumer science
9 courses of study required in accordance with the State Board of
10 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into
11 other appropriate courses of study.

12 (b) The instruction:

13 (1) Shall be age appropriate.

14 (2) Shall be sequential in method of study.

15 (3) Shall communicate the connection between personal
16 finance concepts, broader economic concepts and age-appropriate
17 situations a student may experience.

18 (4) Shall communicate personal finance concepts, including,
19 but not limited to, the following:

20 (i) Money management.

21 (ii) Earning income.

22 (iii) Borrowing money.

23 (iv) Financial services.

24 (v) Risk management.

25 (vi) Saving and investing.

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

29 (5) Shall prepare a student for life after graduation.

30 Section 1551.2. Capstone Course in Personal Finance as

1 Graduation Requirement.--(a) The State Board of Education shall
2 require every candidate for a full high school diploma after
3 September 2016 to receive at least one semester of instruction
4 in a stand-alone capstone course relating to personal finance at
5 some time during grade eleven or twelve of the candidate's
6 educational career.

7 (b) In order to fulfill the graduation requirement under
8 subsection (a), school districts may choose from several
9 delivery options for offering the course, including classroom
10 instruction, which shall be the equivalent of one semester or
11 one-half credit, or as a standards-aligned, self-paced online or
12 blended course which includes a district-approved, end-of-course
13 assessment.

14 (c) Each school entity may utilize educational materials as
15 provided for in section 1551 for the purpose of the graduation
16 requirement under subsection (a).

17 (d) The Department of Education shall make available and
18 conduct professional development to school districts that
19 request assistance in implementing the provisions of this
20 section.

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

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

25 (2) is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole
26 of the student's learning throughout the student's years of
27 education on a particular subject;

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

30 (4) effectively culminates in each student demonstrating a

1 comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

2 Section 1551.3. Personal Finance Education Fund.--(a) The
3 Personal Finance Education Fund is established in the State
4 Treasury. The money of the fund shall be used for grants under
5 section 1551(e.1).

6 (b) The fund shall consist of all money collected by the
7 Commonwealth under subsection (c) and money solicited by the
8 State Treasurer under subsection (d).

9 (c) (1) The Department of Revenue shall provide a space on
10 the Pennsylvania individual income tax return form whereby an
11 individual may voluntarily designate a contribution of an amount
12 desired to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

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

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

23 (d) The State Treasurer shall solicit money for the Personal
24 Finance Education Fund and may designate employees of the
25 Treasury Department to carry out this duty.

26 Section 3. The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to
27 the Department of Education for the purpose of administering
28 this act.

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