

School Board Executive Summary

Topic: Annual Financial Literacy Report

Date: October 19, 2026

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Recommended Action:

- ☒ Information Only
- ☐ Presentation/Discussion
- ☐ Discussion/Action by Board of Education
- ☐ Presentation/Action Next Meeting

Recommendation: None at this time. Annual report on financial literacy curriculum.

Background: The purpose of this report is to provide an update on financial literacy education in Westside Community Schools. In May of 2021, The Financial Literacy Act was signed into Nebraska law and requires this update be provided to the Board annually. In addition to providing this annual report, the Financial Literacy Act has the following requirements:

- Starting with the 23-24 school year, each school district must include appropriate financial literacy instruction in elementary and middle schools
- Starting with the 23-24 school years, high school students must complete a financial literacy course as a part of graduation requirements.
- The annual update must include progress in financial literacy courses.

Curriculum Overview

At the elementary level, personal finance concepts are primarily covered through the adoption of the 2019 social studies standards. For example, kindergartners are taught to recognize that money is used to purchase goods and services and are able to explain the purpose of money. In third grade, students evaluate choices and consequences for spending and saving. In sixth grade, students explain how the interaction between producers and consumers satisfied economic wants and needs.

At the middle level, the economics strand of the social studies standards focus on the development of the economic system in the United States, how tax revenues are collected and distributed, and the role of money in early US history. In Business and Technology 7, students learn about ways to make and save money, investing (savings account, stock market), paychecks, banking accounts, checking account transactions (debit, credit, check, ATM, deposit, withdrawal), credit cards, loans, basic business/product development, and lifestyle budgeting (housing, food,

transportation, etc.). In Family and Consumer Sciences 8, students explore budgeting, financial decision-making, the difference between wants and needs, making thoughtful spending choices, and how prioritizing needs supports short and long-term financial security.

At the high school, all students are required to take Personal Finance as a graduation requirement. While this was recently mandated by the state, Westside added it as a requirement in 2012 for the graduating class of 2017. The course includes topics such as the consumer decision-making process, budgeting and financial records, savings and investment, checking accounts and banking services, risk and insurances, and various types of credit and credit reports. All students have the opportunity to earn college credit for Personal Finance through Metropolitan Community College, an option that we started during the 21-22 school year.

	Pass Rate	# of students earning dual credit w/ MCC
2021-2022	92%	158
2022-2023	88%	322
2023-2024	92%	396
2024-2025	95%	393
2025-2026	93%	376

Attachment(s): None