



Department of Public Instruction

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Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead
State Superintendent

TO: North Dakota Schools
FROM: Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead
State Superintendent
DATE: July 7, 2010
RE: Personal Finance Curriculum Guide

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead is pleased to announce the completion of the North Dakota Financial Literacy Guide. Linda Paluck, Director of School Approval and Accreditation and an eleven member committee worked diligently over the past year to create an online resource that will provide instructors of personal finance a variety of choices in meeting the statutory requirements.

A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Concepts of personal finance – Inclusion in curriculum

1. Beginning July 1, 2010, each school district shall ensure that its curriculum for either economics or problems of democracy includes the exposure of students to concepts of personal finance, including:
 - a. Checkbook mechanics, including writing checks, balancing, and statement reconciliation;
 - b. Saving for larger purchases;
 - c. Credit, including credit card usage, interest, and fees;
 - d. Earning power, including jobs for teenagers;
 - e. Taxation and paycheck withholdings;
 - f. College costs;
 - g. Making and living within a budget; and
 - h. Mortgages, retirement savings, and investments
2. Upon written request, the superintendent of public instruction may allow a school district annually to select courses other than economics or problems of democracy for purposes of exposing students to the concepts of personal finance, as listed in this section, provided the school district can demonstrate that the number of students exposed to the concepts in the other selected courses would meet or exceed the number of students exposed under the requirements of subsection 1.
3. The requirements of this section may be provided by the regular classroom teacher of the course in which the concepts of personal finance are incorporated.

A special thank you to the following members of the committee who worked as a team to research, study, and reach consensus in providing a quality personal finance curriculum guide to our North Dakota high school students.

Linda M. Paluck, Department of Public Instruction, Bismarck
Dave Weiler, ND State Representative, Bismarck
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For questions or more information, please contact Linda M. Paluck at lpaluck@nd.gov or 328-1718.