

June 12, 2007

H.B. 1476 – Passport to Financial Literacy Act

Dear Superintendent:

House Bill 1476 creates *The Passport to Financial Literacy Act*, which becomes effective July 1, 2007.

AREAS OF INSTRUCTION

Personal financial literacy education shall be taught in the public schools of this state. Personal financial literacy education shall include, but is not limited to, the following areas of instruction:

1. Understanding interest, credit card debt, and online commerce;
2. Rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home;
3. Savings and investing;
4. Planning for retirement;
5. Bankruptcy;
6. Banking and financial services;
7. Balancing a checkbook;
8. Understanding loans and borrowing money, including predatory lending and payday loans;
9. Understanding insurance;
10. Identity fraud and theft;
11. Charitable giving;
12. Understanding the financial impact and consequences of gambling;
13. Earning an income; and
14. Understanding state and federal taxes.

Beginning with students entering the seventh grade in the 2008-2009 school year, in order to graduate **from** a public high school with a standard diploma, students shall fulfill the requirements for a personal financial literacy passport. The requirements for a personal financial literacy passport shall be satisfactory completion in all areas of instruction, as listed in the bill, during grades seven through twelve.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, districts shall provide instruction in personal financial literacy to students during grades seven through twelve. Districts shall have the option of determining when each of the 14 areas of instruction shall be presented to students. Personal financial literacy shall be integrated into one or more existing courses of study or provided in a separate personal financial literacy course at the local school district's discretion.

STATE STANDARDS

The State Board of Education shall identify and adopt curriculum standards for personal financial literacy instruction reflecting the 14 areas of instruction. These standards shall be included in the state's core curriculum, the *Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS)*.

RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The State Department of Education shall:

- Develop guidelines and materials to enable schools to infuse personal financial literacy within any course of study currently offered by the school district or offer as a separate course. The guidelines shall outline the areas of instruction to be taught based on the curriculum standards adopted by the Board;
- Develop professional development programs designed to help teachers provide instruction in personal financial literacy and incorporate the curriculum into an existing course or courses or develop a separate course;
- Provide resources, including on-line modules of instruction and assessment, for integrating the teaching of personal financial literacy into an existing course or for developing a separate course.

The Department may work with one or more not-for-profit organizations that have proven expertise to develop guidelines, materials, resources, to including on-line modules, and professional development.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

- For students who transfer from out of state after the seventh grade, Oklahoma school districts shall assess the knowledge of students in each of the 14 areas of instruction. A school district may exempt out of state transfer students from completing instruction in any or all areas of personal financial literacy if the district determines that the student has successfully completed the areas at a previous school or if the student demonstrates satisfactory knowledge through an assessment. The district may use the assessment provided in State Department of Education on-line modules to determine the personal financial literacy knowledge level of the transfer student. The district also may use the on-line modules to present instruction to transfer students who have not completed or did not demonstrate satisfactory knowledge in personal financial literacy at a previous school.
- School districts may make an exception to the requirements for a personal financial literacy passport for students who transfer into the school district from out of state after the junior year of high school.

TEXT BOOKS

The State Textbook Committee may, when selecting textbooks for mathematics, economics, or similar courses, select textbooks which contain substantive provisions on personal finance.

Please contact Jennifer Watson, Team Leader Curriculum, at (405) 521-3361; or Kelly Curtright, Director Social Studies, at (405) 522-3523, with questions.

Sincerely,

Sandy Garrett
State Superintendent

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Attachment: House Bill 1476