Ohio's Learning Standards

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2018

Financial Literacy-High School

Ohio | Department of Education

Table of Contents

Introduction to Ohio's Learning Standards for Financial Literacy

The State Board of Education approved Ohio's Learning Standards for Financial Literacy for grades K-12 in February 2018, per Ohio law. This standards document includes updated High School Financial Literacy Standards and newly created Kindergarten through middle-grades Financial Literacy standards. Ohio educators and business community representatives provided input for both.

The standards give students, beginning in Kindergarten, a fundamental understanding of financial literacy concepts. Building on these concepts and skills throughout their school years prepares Ohio high school graduates to successfully navigate financial challenges in post-secondary education, careers and beyond.

These newly revised and created financial literacy standards help schools understand the essential financial literacy concepts and skills they must teach their students for success in life after high school. The standards are organized by grade bands so students at the end of each grade band have acquired the content and skills outlined. The K-3 and grades 4-6 standards complement what educators are already teaching as part of Ohio's Learning Standards in Social Studies and Mathematics. The Financial Literacy Standards connect these content areas and offer students ways to apply in the real world the skills and content they already are learning.

The standards for each grade band provide a clear progression of content knowledge and skills that are appropriate for students at that level. Schools can teach the middle grades and high school financial literacy standards as stand-alone courses or integrate them into other appropriate courses.

GUIDING ASSUMPTIONS

Ohio's Learning Standards for Financial Literacy provide a foundation for what all students should know and gives students the skills needed for them to be informed and savvy consumers in today's fast paced and ever-changing society.

PHILOSOPHY OF OHIO'S LEARNING STANDARDS: FINANCIAL LITERACY

Ohio's Learning Standards for Financial Literacy incorporate the following topics across the grade bands: financial responsibility and decision-making, planning and money management, informed consumer, investing, credit and debt, and risk management and insurance. Within these topics, students will:

- develop the ability to make informed and reasoned financial decisions;
- become prepared for their role as decision-makers as consumers; and
- act responsibly as consumers and investors and best utilize their limited resources.

WHAT OHIO'S LEARNING STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY DO

Ohio's Learning Standards for Financial Literacy:

- balance knowledge, conceptual understanding and skill development;
- address significant understandings that are the basis for students to make sound financial decisions;
- focus on important financial literacy topics; and
- represent a progression across grade bands.

Financial Literacy Topics

The Financial Literacy Standards are further broken down within the grade bands by topics. Each topic is an over-arching idea that organizes and focuses the instruction. Topic definitions are in the chart below:

TOPIC	TOPIC DECRIPTIONS
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DECSION MAKING	In the United States' economy, personal financial decisions rest with the individual. Making responsible decisions related to goals for lifestyle and financial wants fosters financial success and security.
PLANNING AND MONEY MANAGEMENT	A disciplined personal financial plan is a critical component of financial success. Financial institutions and professionals provide services, expertise and guidance for developing and implementing one's financial plan.
INFORMED CONSUMER	Informed purchasing decisions are essential for responsible financial management. Limited protections against some consumer fraud exist in government regulatory agencies and laws. Ultimately, consumers must be informed and vigilant when making purchasing decisions.
INVESTING	The goal of financial management is to increase one's net worth. Investing, through a variety of options, is one way to build wealth and increase financial security. Many factors affect investment and retirement plans. Among the many examples are government regulations and global economic and environmental conditions.
CREDIT AND DEBT	Responsible use of credit is one tool to help achieve financial and lifestyle goals. To advance successfully through financial life stages, a consumer must create, establish and maintain credit worthiness. Disciplined consumers borrow within their means at favorable terms and repay debt responsibly.
RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE	As individuals accumulate net worth and establish a standard of living, they assume the risk of loss of income and assets. Use of a risk management plan mitigates the potential loss of income and personal net worth and safeguards personal identity. Risk management products and strategies change over one's life span.

Financial Literacy Standards: High School

Financial Literacy is defined as the ability to read, analyze, manage and communicate about personal financial conditions that affect one's material well-being. It includes the ability to discern financial choices, discuss money and financial issues without (or despite) discomfort, plan for the future and respond completely to life events that affect every day financial decisions, including events in the general economy.

HIGH SCHOOL	
TOPIC	**CONTENT STATEMENTS**
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISION MAKING	1. Financial responsibility entails being accountable for managing money to satisfy one's current and future economic choices. 2. Financial responsibility involves life-long decision-making strategies which include consideration of alternatives and consequences. 3. Competencies (knowledge and skills), commitment (motivation and enthusiasm), competition (globalization and automation), training, work ethic, abilities and attitude are all factors impacting one's earning potential and employability. 4. Income sources include job earnings and benefits, entrepreneurship, saving and investment earnings, government payments, grants, inheritances, etc. Workers can experience dramatic income dips and spikes from month to month. 5. Taxes, retirement, insurance, employment benefits, and both voluntary and involuntary deductions impact take-home pay.
PLANNING AND MONEY MANAGEMENT	6. Financial responsibility includes the development of a spending and savings plan (personal budget). 7. Financial institutions offer a variety of products and services to address financial responsibility. 8. Financial experts provide guidance and advice on a wide variety of financial issues. 9. Planning for and paying local, state and federal taxes is a financial responsibility. 10. Tax payers may save money by understanding and using tax credits and deductions.

HIGH SCHOOL	
TOPIC	**CONTENT STATEMENTS**
INFORMED CONSUMER	11. An informed consumer makes decisions on purchases that may include a decision-making strategy to determine if purchases are within their budget. 12. Consumer advocates, organizations and regulations provide important information and help protect against potential consumer fraud. 13. Part of being an informed consumer is knowing how to utilize financial services and risk management tools, as well as comparing consumer lending terms and conditions and reading financial statements. 14. Consumer protections laws help safeguard individuals from fraud and potential loss. 15. Planned purchasing decisions factor in direct (price) and indirect costs (e.g. sales/use tax, excise tax, shipping, handling, and delivery charges, etc.).
INVESTING	16. Using key investing principles one can achieve the goal of increasing net worth. 17. Investment strategies must take several factors into consideration including the time horizon of the investment, the degree of diversification, the investor's risk tolerance, how the assets are selected and allocated, product costs, fees, tax implications and the time value of money. 18. Government agencies are charged with regulating providers of financial services to help protect investors.
CREDIT AND DEBT	19. Credit is a contractual agreement in which a borrower receives something of value now and agrees to repay to lender at some later date. 20. Debt is an obligation owed by one party to a second party. 21. Effectively balancing credit and debt helps one achieve some short and long-term goals. 22. Financial documents and contractual obligations inform the consumer and define the terms and conditions of establishing credit and incurring debt. 23. Many options exist for paying for post-secondary education opportunities.
RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE	24. A risk management plan can protect consumers from the potential loss of personal and/or business assets or income. 25. Safeguards exist that help protect one's identity. 26. Diversification of assets is one way to manage risk. 27. A comprehensive insurance plan (health, life, disability, auto, homeowners, renters, liability, etc.) serves as a safeguard against potential loss.