**Curricular Materials at a Glance:**

## K-12 Personal Financial Literacy

Signed into law by Governor Baker on January 20, 2019, Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2018, [*An Act Relative to Financial Literacy in Schools*](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter438), requires the Department to assist schools in the selection of materials and curriculum on personal financial literacy, and resources for professional development activities.

The overview chart below lists of free curricular resources associated with the following topics addressed in the law: (1) loans; (2) interest and interest accrual; (3) credit card debt; (4) online commerce; (5) rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; (6) saving, investing and planning for retirement; (7) the role of banking and financial services; (8) balancing a checkbook; (9) state and federal taxes; (10) charitable giving; (11) evaluating media content, including online content, that relates to personal finance matters; and (12) saving, investing and planning for higher education or professional training.

Each curricular resource is described in more detail [below the overview chart](#DetailedInfo).

|  |  | **Grades** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name**  **\*** denotes materials that require free registration to access | **Topics Covered** | **K-5** | **6-8** | **9-12** | **PD Available?** |
| [Banzai](https://teachbanzai.com/)\*  Online, simulation-based courses for ages 8 and up as well as a library of individual resources on key topics | 1–12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| [**Council for Economic Education**](https://www.councilforeconed.org/k-12-resources/)\*  Resources include classroom-tested, Internet-based lesson materials and assessment tools. | 1–12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Free |
| [**Crash Course**](https://www.thecrashcourse.com)  Short videos on entrepreneurship, economics, and media literacy | 1, 7, 9, 11 |  |  | ✓ |  |
| [**EVERFI: Financial Literacy**](https://everfi.com/offerings/listing/everfi-financial-literacy/)  Digital, gamified program that teaches students how to make wise decisions and develop actionable strategies to promote financial well-being over their lifetime | 1-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Free |
| [**FDIC Money Smart**](https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/young.html)  Four free individual grade-level curricula designed for grades Pre-K–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12 | 1-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| [**Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Econ Ed**](https://www.stlouisfed.org/education)  Economics lesson plans, activities, and readings that offer real-world connections to prepare students for college and careers | 1-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | For-Cost |
| [**Federal Reserve Education**](https://www.federalreserveeducation.org/) Economics curriculum materials by grade and topic | 1-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| [**FitMoney**](http://www.fitmoney.org/) Free, classroom-ready K-12 curriculum and free in-person and virtual training to teachers | 1-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Free |
| [**FoolProofMe**](https://www.foolproofme.org/)\* Curriculum focused on developing healthy skepticism, trustworthiness, and personal responsibility in financial matters | 1–12 |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| [**Junior Achievement**](https://jausa.ja.org/) Interactive financial literacy offerings for grades K-12 focused on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness | 1-4,  6-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| [**National Jump$tart Coalition Clearinghouse**](https://www.jumpstart.org/clearinghouse/) Database of effective, financial education resources from various sources (both open source and for-cost) | 1-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | For-Cost |
| [**NextGen Personal Finance**](https://www.ngpf.org/)\*  Personal finance curriculum and professional development | 1-12 |  | ✓ | ✓ | Free |
| [**PwC Access Your Potential**](https://www.pwc.com/us/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/access-your-potential/tech-financial-literacy-curriculum.html) Lessons for K–12 students (in both English and Spanish) around financial literacy topics | 1-3, 5-7,  9-12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |
| [**$martPath**](https://smartpathlearning.com/)\* Story-based, interactive units about financial literacy topics for grades 1–8 | 3, 7, 12 | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| [**Take Charge Today**](https://takechargetoday.arizona.edu/)\*  75 introductory (grades 7-9) and advanced (grades 10-12) lessons based on teacher feedback and research | 1-12 |  | ✓ | ✓ | Free |

**ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WEBSITES SUPPORTING K-12 PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY**

[**Council for Economic Education**](http://councilforeconed.org)Economics and personal finance curriculum resources, including Voluntary National Standards on Economics and National Standards for Financial Literacy

[**MassSaves**](http://www.masssaves.org/)  
Network of public and private stakeholders including financial educators, providers, community organizations, and advocates

[**My Financial Life MA: Resources for Educators**](https://myfinanciallifema.org/topic/resources-for-educators/)Video playlists and individual learning modules to build educators’ knowledge of financial literacy topics

*Please also see the* [Supplement to the 2018 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/2018-12sup.docx)*, which includes additional resources to support the teaching of Economics and Personal Financial Literacy.*

**DETAILED INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY RESOURCES[[1]](#footnote-1)**

## [Banzai](https://teachbanzai.com/)

*Banzai is an award-winning, interactive content platform that teaches real-world finance through interactive courses, printed workbooks, and a digital library with extra financial literacy resources as well as a coaching center focused on common questions.*

* Curricular Materials:
  + Online Courses: Banzai’s courses are split among three age groups: 8-12, 13-18, and 16+. The online interactive games cover basic personal finance topics including borrowing, budgeting, spending, and setting goals.
  + Printed Workbooks: Banzai offers printed workbooks that complement each financial literacy course and challenge students to use critical thinking, math, and vocabulary to work through real-life scenarios.
  + Digital Library: In partnership with local savings institutions, Banzai offers extra online resources in its digital library. The collection delves deeper into specific components of personal finance topics.
  + Coaching Center: The Banzai Coaching Center provides guidance to students and adults on how to budget, plan for retirement, and save. It tackles common questions including ‘how to get out of debt’ and ‘the right time to retire’ in 3-7 minute clips.

## [Council for Economic Education](https://www.councilforeconed.org/k-12-resources/)

*The Council for Economic Education has lesson materials, assessment tools, and professional development intended to equip K-12 students with tools and knowledge of personal finance.*

* Curricular Materials:
  + Instructional Resources: [EconEdLink](https://www.econedlink.org/) provides an easily searchable database of hundreds of online lessons and classroom interactives for K-12 teachers and their students.
  + Assessments: [Ready Assessments](https://www.econedlink.org/readyassessments/) is an online tool to measure students' financial literacy knowledge. Teachers can administer ready-made tests and quizzes or draw on a library of 1,200+ standards-aligned questions.
* Professional Development: The CEE is an [approved](https://www.doe.mass.edu/pd/search/details.aspx?id=3905) professional development provider for Massachusetts educators. It offers both online and in-person professional development opportunities for educators throughout the country. The CEE also regularly offers professional development webinars for teachers.

[**Crash Course**](https://www.thecrashcourse.com)

*Crash Course supplies educational videos on YouTube including concepts from economics, entrepreneurship, and business through short, engaging videos.*

* Curricular Materials: Videos can act as supplements to traditional textbook-style material or curricular resources. The videos help summarize difficult topics using graphics and highlight the key takeaways.

[**EVERFI: Financial Literacy**](https://everfi.com/offerings/listing/everfi-financial-literacy/)

*EVERFI guides teachers through financial education lessons plans for K-12 students using a combination of interactive games, simulations, data analyzation, and course outlines. It aims to bring real-world concepts to the classroom through immersive games.*

* Curricular Materials: EVERFI provides a variety of online courses which include simulations and games that immerse students in real-world context while learning financial literacy topics. Its interactive courses provide a platform for students to see how their decisions impact the outcomes of the simulation.
* Professional Development: Educators can take advantage of webinars and conferences to continue their learning and enhance their capacity to teach particular topics.

[**FDIC Money Smart**](https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/young.html)

*FDIC Money Smart provides a self-led or instructor-led introduction to personal finance that can easily be used by young adults, adults and instructors. Their platform aims to positively influence how individuals manage their finances.*

* Curricular Materials:
  + For Young People: This set of four grade-specific curriculum products includes lesson plans for educators and guides for parents and caregivers to engage students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The FDIC developed these materials with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
  + For Young Adults: Each of the eight modules includes a scripted instructor guide. Bankers and others without teaching experience can easily use these tools to help young people ages 12-20 learn the basics of personal finance.
  + For Adults: 14-module course provides training for adults in many life stages and financial situations. That includes adults new to this country, adults with disabilities, adults starting or changing careers, and adults going through significant life events such as expanding their families or purchasing or renting their first homes.
* Supplemental Resources: Self-paced learning options include an online learning game and podcasts that convey key financial concepts in a conversational manner.

[**Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Econ Ed**](https://www.stlouisfed.org/education)

*The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Econ Ed provides hundreds of teaching resources for students in grades K-12 ranging from videos to story projects.*

* Curricular Materials: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Econ Ed has a collection of videos and lesson plans for educators. Their lesson plans include worksheets, interactives, and modules. Educators can filter through the resources provided by concepts, resource types, and grade level.
* Professional Development: Educators can choose among three options for professional development. Graduate credit can be acquired through Emporia State University for completing 15 hours of coursework and assessments. The Federal Reserve Bank Professional Development Certificate can be earned by finishing 10 hours of lessons and online programming. Professional Development credit can also be earned by working with students to complete online courses in economics and personal finance.

[**Federal Reserve Education**](https://www.federalreserveeducation.org/)  
*Federal Reserve Education provides a range of classroom resources including digital worksheets and lesson plans. They provide content for K-12 students, college students, and adults.*

* Curricular Materials: The Federal Reserve maintains a searchable database of materials organized by grade level. Additionally, the [Econ Lowdown](https://www.econlowdown.org/) platform includes online courses and videos for K-12 and college classrooms which allows teachers to build a syllabus from among available resources and monitor student progress through assigned materials.

[**FitMoney**](http://www.fitmoney.org/)  
*FitMoney’s curriculum was designed by teachers and includes both instructor-led materials and digital, self-directed learning tools for students starting in kindergarten. It emphasizes teaching information through an interactive approach with real-world examples.*

* Curricular Materials:
  + Elementary (K-5): Consists of 5-6 lessons per grade between grades K-5 that are all standards-aligned to Common Core math and can be integrated into 40-minute class periods.
  + Middle (6-8): Consists of 18 real-world case studies (ex: “Buying a Cellphone”) that can be taught in one 45-minute session or broken into two sessions, in class or in a remote setting. FitMoney also designed a STEM Business Plan Challenge for Middle School, which is a one-week, five-hour project-based curriculum.
  + High (9-12): Includes 25 45-minute lessons which can be taught during one Financial Literacy semester or integrated into a variety of courses like Math, Social Studies, History, or Civics over several years. Each lesson implementation plan includes suggested pacing, a glossary of terms, and group activities.
  + Digital Courses:The Financially Fit Certificate has two levels: the Certificate for grades 8-12 and the Junior Certificate for grades 3-5. Each program consists of micro-lesson video modules about real-world financial literacy topics. FitMoney will also be launching an interactive, game-based curriculum for grades K-6 in late 2022.
* Professional Development: FitMoney provides virtual and in-person professional development to introduce educators to their materials.

[**FoolProofMe**](https://www.foolproofme.org/)  
*FoolProofMe offers financial literacy resources and curricular resources for middle school, high school students, and college students. It focuses on helping students develop the habits of healthy skepticism, trustworthiness, and personal responsibility and support healthy decision-making.*

* Curricular Materials: FoolProofMe offers programs catered towards middle school and high school students.
  + Classroom Materials: The curriculum is aligned to the Council for Economic Education standards. Aside from teaching basic financial literacy concepts, the materials help students build good decision-making habits. They include videos, interactive conversations, animation and text; students can register and complete at their own pace, and teachers can monitor progress.
  + [Solo Program:](https://solo.foolproofonline.info/foolproof/) This program, intended for students to work through independently, consists of 18 interactive videos on topics such as renting, bankruptcy, credit cards, and money habits.

[**Junior Achievement**](https://jausa.ja.org/)  
*Junior Achievement (JA) provides a full-fledged personal finance curriculum to local schools and youth organizations through the support of local businesses, individuals, and foundations. Materials focus on teaching finance and economics lessons to students in a real-world context.*

* Curricular Materials: JA offers High School Experience courses, which are one-semester, teacher-led courses targeting 9-12 grade students. Each course focuses on different personal financial literacy topics.
  + JA Financial Literacy: How to earn and save money; create a budget; manage bank accounts, investments, and credit; assess risks and use insurance; and address financial problems.
  + JA Personal Finance 2.0: Money management strategies, including employment and income, budgeting, savings, credit and debt, consumer protection, risk management, investing, and debt management.
  + JA Economics: Connects high school students to the economic principles that influence their daily life as well as their future.
  + JA Financial Capability 1 + 2: One-semester, teacher-led courses in which high school students examine financial capabilities from a business perspective, focusing on (1) banking, economics, business planning, and risk management, (2) employee benefits, ethics, business investment, and international business operations.
* Supplemental Programs: Programs include “Take Stock in Your Future” (a curriculum and stock market competition event); a simulation-based program in which students compete as CEOs making business decisions; a volunteer-led session focused on purchasing a car; and others.
* Online Resources: JA provides online content including activities, videos, and career speaker videos for students and parents.

[**National Jump$tart Coalition Clearinghouse**](https://www.jumpstart.org/clearinghouse/)  
*The Jump$tart coalition consists of more than 100 national organizations and a network of 51 independent, affiliated state coalitions that share a commitment to advancing youth financial literacy. They maintain a database of effective, financial education resources from various sources (both open source and for-cost).*

* Curricular Materials: The Clearinghouse is a searchable database with filters by target audience, resource type, and price. It aims to consolidate materials from a variety of personal financial literacy sources.
* Professional Development: Jump$tart offers a variety of professional learning opportunities.
  + The [National Educator Conference](https://www.jumpstart.org/what-we-do/nec/) is a national conference, free for educators, dedicated to financial education in the classroom and the professionals who teach it.
  + [Financial Foundations for Educators](https://www.jumpstart.org/what-we-do/support-financial-education/jffe-2/) is a comprehensive content-based professional learning model that ensures consistency and rigor in professional development for teachers

[**NextGen Personal Finance**](https://www.ngpf.org/)

*NextGen Personal Finance (NGPF) provides comprehensive curriculum, professional development, and advocacy resources to increase access to financial education and build a community of financial literacy educators. NGPF also offers step-by-step plans for schools and districts to expand financial education access.*

* Curricular Materials: NGPF has a variety of lesson formats including customizable, ready-to-use courses, lessons, and activities to teach personal finance at both the high school and middle school levels.
  + Units: NGPF features 12 different personal finance units each including interactives and assessments.
  + Courses: NGPF offers a nine-week, semester-long, and full-year course for high schoolers, as well as a middle school course.
  + Activities: NGPF’s website has arcade games on personal finance concepts such as paying for college, insurance, budgeting, investing, and managing their credit. In addition, it offers an Interactive Library with links to interactive projects, simulations, graphs, quizzes, and other online interactives. NGPF’s games are also available on Quizlet, Kahoot, and Quizizz.
* Professional Development: NGPF offers various professional development opportunities, delivered through three different methods (Virtual PD, Certification Courses, and On-Demand). The sessions cover a wide range of personal finance topics and teaching strategies and provide opportunities to collaborate with other educators.

[**PwC Access Your Potential**](https://www.pwc.com/us/en/about-us/corporate-responsibility/access-your-potential/tech-financial-literacy-curriculum.html)  
*PwC provides personal finance education to students across all grade levels. Lesson plans include short summary videos, worksheets, and post-tests to assess student learning.*

* Curricular Materials: PwC has modules for all grade levels composed of easy-to-follow lesson plans accompanied by engaging activities.
  + Elementary School: Covers eight topics; each topic consists of a one-hour class lesson plan and a short summary video with an accompanying worksheet.
  + Middle School: Builds upon the elementary school curriculum with more units geared towards saving up for college tuition, understanding taxes, and increasing human capital.
  + High School: Builds upon the middle school curriculum with extra units centered around making informed career decisions, planning for the future, and preventing financial fraud.

[**$martPath**](https://smartpathlearning.com/)  
*$martPath uses an online platform to help middle and elementary school educators access economic and financial education videos, interactive games, assessments, and other teaching tools.*

* + - Curricular Materials: $martPath’s award-winning curricular videos are story-based and attempt to connect financial literacy topics with real-life scenarios. Through these videos, $martPath teaches content such as saving, methods of payment, and opportunity costs. $martPath also provides resources for facilitating classroom discussions about race and power and explains how relationships, assumptions, and leverage can often influence financial decision making. Partnering with expert interventionists, $martPath also has resources and learning guides that focus on supporting students with different learning styles and dis/abilities.

[**Take Charge Today**](https://takechargetoday.arizona.edu/)

*Take Charge Today uses teacher feedback and research to provide a consistent framework to teach financial literacy through lesson plans and professional development. As a program under the University of Arizona, Take Charge Today has interactive lesson plans for students in grades 7-12.*

* + - Curricular Materials: Take Charge Today offers curricular materials that include more than 75 lesson plans, worksheets, hands-on learning activities, and PowerPoint presentations. Their curriculum has been designed by university educators and financial literacy experts and is consistently updated based on classroom feedback and research. Lesson plans are aligned to most state and national standards, include accompanying course guides, and provide various assessment tools.
    - Professional Development: Take Charge Today offers videos and webinars for educators that cover topics regarding financial education. Educator training and interactive workshops allow educators to network and collaborate with others across the nation and collaborate on developing their skills in teaching. They also publish newsletters to keep educators updated on current financial topics.

## APPENDIX:

## Policy Regarding Inclusion of Materials for Financial Literacy “Curricular Materials at a Glance” Document December 1, 2021

This document is intended to support schools and districts with implementing instruction consistent with the Personal Financial Literacy standards in the 2018 History and Social Science Framework and Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2018, [*An Act Relative to Financial Literacy in Schools*](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter438). Chapter 438 specifically requires the Department to assist schools in the selection of materials and curriculum on personal financial literacy, and resources for professional development activities.

In determining which materials to include on this list, DESE staff apply the following criteria:

* The materials are free of charge to schools.
* The materials include lesson plans, interactive activities, assessments, or other student-facing resources that can be directly used for classroom instruction.
* The materials cover one or more of the topics listed in Chapter 438:
  1. loans;
  2. interest and interest accrual;
  3. credit card debt;
  4. online commerce;
  5. rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home;
  6. saving, investing and planning for retirement;
  7. the role of banking and financial services;
  8. balancing a checkbook;
  9. state and federal taxes;
  10. charitable giving;
  11. evaluating media content, including online content, that relates to personal finance matters; and
  12. saving, investing and planning for higher education or professional training.
* The materials meet baseline expectations for quality by:
  + Being of an appropriate level of rigor and complexity for the targeted grade(s)
  + Including supports for planning, preparation, and classroom implementation
  + Acknowledging a diversity of stories and experiences and providing students opportunities to connect their learning to their own identity and experiences
  + Being free of factual inaccuracies or undue bias

In developing the list of materials, DESE staff conducted a review of all financial literacy resources known to the Department. As DESE becomes aware of additional resources that may qualify for inclusion, they will periodically review them and update the “At a Glance” document as appropriate.

1. The Department is grateful to [Angie Leung](mailto:leungyn3@gmail.com) and [Vidula Mannem](mailto:vidulamannem@gmail.com) ([Team Financial Future](mailto:teamfinfuture@gmail.com), Lexington High School) for their support in gathering the information for this section. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)