

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Financial Literacy
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:25:21 AM

Yes, please!

I am a 35+ year educator in Alaska and a certified math teacher. In my early years, I was a high school math teacher, but also have about 25 years as a principal/superintendent in private and public schools.

Financial Literacy would be a great requirement- our emerging future citizens/parents/policy makers need improved training in financial literacy. Please consider these when passing the bill-

1. Allow a Financial Literacy course to count as math credit class toward the Alaska Performance Scholarship
2. Allow rigorous courses in Financial Literacy to count as one of the 3 math courses for graduation
3. Test Out preparation and Option
 - a) Above average math students generally take the sequence Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, and hopefully Pre-Calc or Trig and Calc I...
 - b) this is great prep for college, but since it does not include Financial Literacy (how interest helps-hurt, property taxes, and income taxes, etc.), even our best students are getting no Financial Literacy before starting their adult years... knowing this, I used to create-integrate units inside of those core courses so my precious students would have some financial know-how to go on for life.
 - c) To keep these hard-working students on track for college math, **could the state/districts also create-integrate units within the above core courses (add standards), so that some students would be prepared to Test Out of the Financial Literacy requirement?**

Thanks,

Nate Davis,

Educating servant leaders who empower their families and communities!

Principal @ Tanalian & Lake View Schools 907.529.6293
Lake & Peninsula School District

Academic Excellence. Strength of Character. Achievement in Life.
READ PLENTY. MAKE A WAY. READ 20. EVERY DAY.
Let kindness and truth never leave you. Make it a grrreat day!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 90 Financial Literacy Program in Schools
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:48:35 AM

This is long overdue. I absolutely support this.

Christel Petty

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 90
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:12:09 AM

House Bill 90
Financial Literacy Curriculum

Dear Representatives,

I support the implementation of curriculum which covers key independent life skills such as budgeting, investing, debt management, and how to protect oneself from scams and fraud. This course offering is a big win for students as they embark on adulthood.

My high school experience included a class which provided instruction and practical experience on the use of credit, how to complete a walk through on a rental property to avoid losing your security deposit and more. I learned how to complete my 1040EZ tax form, about budgeting, balancing a bank account. I strongly believe this class made me more confident in my ability to navigate adulthood. It definitely provided ample cautionary tales and spared me from irresponsible credit use. Overall, this kind of curriculum provided me with a roadmap to being a responsible adult.

I can say these were conversations and skills I did not acquire at home. I am sure this is true for many families.

I have a freshman this year and I would love for him to have access to a class like this. Please lend your support to ensure kids have the skills they need to become financially literate as they leave high school rather than after they have acquired debt and credit issues.

Respectfully,
Shauna Nickel
Anchorage, Alaska

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 90
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 3:23:15 PM

I have long believed that basic financial education is needed in schools. It provides skills we all need as adults.

Jill Dobrydnia
Ketchikan, AK

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [House Finance](#)
Subject: Public Testimony on HB 90
Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025 5:42:53 PM

Public Testimony on HB 90: "An Act Establishing a Financial Literacy Education Program for Public Schools"

Introduction: Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 90, titled "An Act establishing a financial literacy education program for public schools," in its current form. While I support the goal of equipping young Alaskans with necessary financial literacy skills, I believe that this bill contains several critical flaws that, if not addressed, will undermine its intended effectiveness. Below, I will outline the problems with HB 90 and suggest specific solutions to strengthen the bill.

1. Lack of Enforcement and Accountability Mechanisms

Problem: The bill mandates that each school district establish a financial literacy program, but it does not specify any penalties or enforcement mechanisms for districts that fail to implement or complete the program. Without accountability, some districts may fail to comply, leading to inconsistency across the state. Moreover, the bill allows students to graduate without completing the program if they transferred in after completing grade 10, which could be an escape route for students not receiving the required education.

Solution: To ensure uniform implementation and compliance, I recommend adding clear enforcement provisions, such as the withholding of state funds from districts that fail to offer the required program. Additionally, the exemption for transfer students should be reconsidered or replaced with a catch-up provision that allows students to make up the coursework within a specified time frame.

2. Incomplete Curriculum Content

Problem: While the bill covers essential financial topics like budgeting, credit, taxes, and insurance, it lacks coverage of emerging financial concepts such as digital assets (e.g., cryptocurrencies), environmental finance (e.g., sustainable investing), and financial technologies (FinTech). These topics are increasingly relevant to modern financial practices and would better prepare students for the financial landscape they will face.

Solution: The curriculum should be updated to include modules on digital assets, blockchain technologies, and sustainable finance. According to the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (2018), integrating modern financial concepts will ensure that students are prepared for the realities of today's financial world. This inclusion will make the program more comprehensive and adaptable to future trends.

3. Insufficient Consideration of Tribal and Indigenous Financial Systems

Problem: The bill mentions the financial implications of being a member of a Native corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), but it does

not fully explore the unique financial systems, challenges, and opportunities faced by Native Alaskans. This oversight may limit the program's effectiveness for Indigenous students, who may need specialized financial literacy resources related to land management, resource distribution, and the economic realities of living in rural Alaska.

Solution: I recommend expanding the curriculum to include specific content on the financial management of Native lands, resources, and shares, as well as the historical and contemporary role of Native corporations in the Alaska economy. A report by the Alaska Federation of Natives (2021) highlights the importance of culturally relevant financial education for Indigenous students, which could be integrated into the curriculum.

4. Limited Scope of Financial Education Resources

Problem: The bill mandates that the Alaska Department of Education curate a list of "open educational resources" (OER) for school districts, but it does not guarantee the quality or inclusivity of these resources. The resources may be outdated, difficult to implement, or lack regional relevance for Alaska students, especially those in rural or Indigenous communities.

Solution: The bill should require the Department of Education to collaborate with financial literacy experts, Indigenous leaders, and local educators to ensure the resources are up-to-date, comprehensive, and culturally relevant. The state could also establish a review panel of teachers and community members to assess the quality and relevance of these resources on a regular basis.

5. No Provision for Teacher Training and Support

Problem: While the bill requires the creation of a financial literacy program, it does not allocate funding or resources for the training of educators. Teachers must be adequately trained to deliver the content effectively, but without sufficient professional development, this bill will fail to achieve its goals.

Solution: I urge the legislature to allocate funds for teacher training and ongoing professional development in financial literacy. Research from the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy (2020) suggests that professional development is crucial for effective financial education. Ensuring that teachers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to teach the curriculum will enhance the program's overall success.

6. Potential for Inconsistent Implementation Across School Districts

Problem: The bill leaves it up to each school district to implement the program, which could result in wide disparities in program quality between districts. Some districts may not have the resources or expertise to offer a comprehensive financial literacy course.

Solution: To address this issue, the bill should create a state-level oversight mechanism to ensure consistent implementation across all districts. Additionally, the state should consider offering a financial literacy certification program for districts to demonstrate their compliance with the standards. This could include providing additional funding for districts with fewer resources to help them implement the program effectively.

HB 90 presents a significant opportunity to improve financial literacy education in Alaska's

public schools. However, without addressing the concerns outlined above, the bill may fail to provide a comprehensive and equitable education to all students. I strongly urge the legislature to amend HB 90 by incorporating stronger enforcement mechanisms, expanding the curriculum, improving resources for Indigenous students, providing teacher training, and ensuring consistency across districts. By doing so, we can ensure that Alaska's future leaders are well-equipped to navigate the complex financial world ahead of them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers
Myself

Alaska Federation of Natives. (2021). The importance of culturally relevant financial education for Native Alaskans. Retrieved from <http://www.nativefederation.org>

Financial Literacy and Education Commission. (2018). Promoting financial literacy in schools: An analysis of best practices. Retrieved from <https://www.treasury.gov>

Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. (2020). Personal finance education in U.S. schools: A comprehensive guide. Retrieved from <http://www.jumpstart.org>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MICHAEL COONS](#); [House Education](#)
Subject: RE: Support HB 90
Date: Friday, April 4, 2025 11:41:23 AM
Attachments: [ramsey-education-sig-logo_eacb8cc1-932d-4fe2-981f-66f0622caaf1.png](#)

Michael,

Your words are too kind!

To give your legislator some more close info on Ramsey Education, and our Foundations in Personal Finance curriculum.

We have been providing this none-proselytizing, none-devotional curriculum to students for over 20+ years, and in that timeline have served well over 8+ million students – being used in over 47% of high schools across America.

We have also been adopted at the state level for Financial Literacy or Financial Literacy + Econ in several states: Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Utah, and more! Currently submitting for bid in Oklahoma to add to that running list.

If it makes sense for us to setup some time to connect, I would love to find 15 minutes and understand what your initiatives are, and how we may be able to support you in that.

John Tomlinson | Curriculum Advisor



Ramsey Solutions

1011 Reams Fleming Blvd., Franklin, TN 37064

[ramseyeducation.com](https://www.ramseyeducation.com)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 2:15 PM
To: House.Education@akleg.gov
Cc: John Tomlinson
Subject: Support HB 90

To Education Chair, please have testimony at 3 minutes. The following is around 2:30 minutes.

My name is Mike Coons from Wasilla and speaking for

myself.

I fully support HB 90. I would suggest changing to 5th to 12th grades!

Over my adult years, even with a good grounding in saving and spending, I went into debt and I believed the myth that you had to have credit to buy anything.

Around 2010, I read “Total Money Makeover” by Dave Ramsey. Within 18 months, I was out of \$32,000 debt and a few short years later, paid off the mortgage 9 years ahead of time! Was this easy? No. Like Dave says, “as long as you are in debt, the only time you should be in a restaurant is if you are working there”. This is a 8 Baby step program, first is \$1,000 in savings, then paying off debt, etc. This book and others, as well as his Financial Peace University DVD, which puts a cherry on top of his program, is great when a person is in debt. However, if we can keep future adults from being in debt and having to then learn the pitfalls the hard-way, and what it takes to dig out, that is even better!

Dave has a book, “Smart Money, Smart Kids”, geared to children in this bills age group. There are others as well for younger children. I have talked to John Tomlinson Curriculum Advisor Ramsey Solutions 1011 Reams Fleming Blvd., Franklin, TN 37064, and gave his contact information to the bills sponsor. I would strongly suggest having him as an invited guest. This program is being used in, I believe John

said, in 20 states.

In closing a quick example of how hard it is to change course once in debt because we believed the lies on debt and credit we have been told. My wife at the time (now deceased) didn't want to give up the credit card, even though a zero balance. Reason was, what about an emergency. A few months after Baby Step one completed (\$1000 in savings), we had car issues of \$500. When I went to pay, she pulled out the credit card. I told her to put it away and paid cash. She was surprised to say the least! Then a few months later, another car issue, this time \$800, again, paid cash, again she was surprised. That was the moment when she understood what the \$1000 dollar emergency fund was for and we finally got rid of the credit card! Then the issue was doing a budget, but that got easier and especially when she saw the number of bills dwindling to zero! I and now my new wife Gail and I have continued with being debt free and living like nobody else! Please pass this bill and push for full passage this year, unlike last time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Rep. Rebecca Himschoot](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#)
Cc: [Kati Capozzi](#)
Subject: Support Letter for House Bill 90
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:01:11 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-udb0uld.png](#)
[Alaska Chamber HB90 Support Letter HEDU 4-7-2025.pdf](#)

Good morning, Co-Chairs Himschoot and Story,

Please see the attached support letter from the Alaska Chamber for House Bill 90.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kari

Kari Nore

Director of External Affairs



O: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]
2550 Denali Street, Suite 530
Anchorage, AK 99503



April 7, 2025

House Education Committee

Re: House Bill 90, Financial Literacy Program in Schools (version 34-LS0460\A)

Dear Co-Chairs Himschoot and Story, and members of the House Education Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes in support of House Bill 90, an Act establishing a financial literacy education program for public schools; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber has a formal policy position to support the State of Alaska and/or school districts to adopt financial education as a graduation requirement for students. Introducing financial literacy education in high schools can benefit society as a whole. By empowering youth with essential financial management skills, they can learn to mitigate debt and financial insecurity, fostering economic stability, enhancing financial autonomy, and ultimately elevating the well-being of both individuals and families.

Personal finance education gives students the information they need to make better decisions about their finances, allowing them to reach their goals more effectively. There are many free or low-cost resources available to support personal finance education detailed in HB90. The delayed effective date allows school districts and educators needed time to prepare educators, vet and adopt curriculum and determine the best implementation in each school district.

In closing, the Chamber supports HB90 and encourages swift passage of this straightforward and good for business bill. Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO



2550 Denali Street, Suite 530
Anchorage, AK 99503



Office (907) 278-2722



www.alaskachamber.com
info@alaskachamber.com

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Support for HB 90 – Financial Literacy Education for Alaska Students
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 7:49:17 AM

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

Hello I am is Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche, and I serve as the Alaska Education Chair for the NAACP Tri-State Area Conference, representing Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 90, which proposes the implementation of financial literacy education in Alaska's high schools.

HB 90 is a forward-thinking and necessary piece of legislation that will equip students particularly those from historically underserved communities with essential life skills. Financial literacy is not just a practical tool; it is a matter of equity. By teaching students how to manage personal finances, understand credit and debt, and make informed financial decisions, we give them the power to break cycles of poverty and build generational stability.

The NAACP firmly believes in preparing students for both academic and real-world success. HB 90 aligns with this mission and reflects Alaska's commitment to supporting all students, including those in rural and Indigenous communities. We urge the committee to move this bill forward and ensure it includes culturally responsive implementation that meets the needs of diverse learners.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to Alaska's youth.

In solidarity,

Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche

Alaska Education Chair

NAACP Tri-State Area Conference

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: Updated support for HB 90
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:58:34 AM

I fully support HB 90. I would suggest changing to 5th to 12th grades!
Over my adult years, even with a good grounding in saving and spending, I went into debt and I believed the myth that you had to have credit to buy anything. Around 2010, I read “Total Money Makeover” by Dave Ramsey. Within 18 months, I was out of \$32,000 debt and a few short years later, paid off the mortgage 9 years ahead of time! Was this easy? No. Like Dave says, “as long as you are in debt, the only time you should be in a restaurant is if you are working there”. This is a 8 Baby step program, first is \$1,000 in savings, then paying off debt, etc. This book and others as well as his Financial Peace University DVD, which puts a cherry on top of his program, is great when a person is in debt. However, if we can keep future adults from being in debt and having to then learn the pitfalls the hard-way, and what it takes to dig out, that is even better!

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A quick example of how hard it is to change course once in debt because we believed the lies on debt and credit we have been told. My wife at the time (now deceased) didn't want to give up the credit card, even though a zero balance. Reason was, what about an emergency. A few months after Baby Step one completed (\$1000 in savings), we had car issues of \$500. When I went to pay, she pulled out the credit card. I told her to put it away and paid cash. She was surprised to say the least! Then a few months later, another car issue, this time \$800, again, paid cash, again she was surprised. That was the moment when she understood what the \$1000 dollar emergency fund was for and we finally got rid of the credit card! Then the issue was doing a budget, but that got easier and especially when she saw the number of bills dwindling to zero! I and now my new wife Gail and I have continued with being debt free and living like nobody else!

To be timely, students whom have a better idea of financial responsibility and savings will be less scared of what is happening today with a skittish Wall Street. Key is to buy low, sell high and to understand that they don't loose anything if they don't sell, they just see a period of “value”, vs selling in a panic an loosing their investments

Please pass this bill and push for full passage this year, unlike last time.

Mike Coons
Wasilla

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Education](#); [Rep. Alyse Galvin](#); [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#)
Subject: financial literacy house bill 90
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:10:48 AM

I'm writing to encourage you to pass this bill adding financial literacy to the curriculum in our schools. Our family just went through helping our son's family sell their home. They didn't understand the ins and outs of this very stressful endeavor. Yes- we were there to help them navigate this process, but as you know, even adult children do not want to listen to their parents! Money management is so important and I had to learn it the hard way, by making lots of financial mistakes. As money gets tighter and tighter, it's wise for teens growing into adulthood to have a good perspective on spending and saving. I realize it's one more thing to put on teachers, but these life lessons will help them in the long run to be good stewards of their money.

thank you.

Christy McMurren

Anchorage