

House Finance

Financial Literacy

SB 99

March 22, 2024



What is Financial Literacy?



- Understanding how much you earn and spend
- Responsibly managing and paying off debt
- Building assets to achieve personal goals
- Preparing for financial security later in life

Why do we need Financial Literacy?



- Only $\frac{1}{3}$ of Americans can comfortably cover a \$400 emergency
- Average credit card debt in Alaska: \$8,026
- Average student loan debt in Alaska: \$34,024
- Alaska received an “F” grade in teaching financial literacy

Senate Bill 99



- **Adds a 0.5 credit in financial literacy**
- **Course should cover topics including:**
 - Making a budget
 - Avoiding fraud and financial deception
 - Basic principles of retirement accounts
 - Postsecondary financial aid and scholarships

Committee Substitute



After meeting with more stakeholders we amended SB99 to allow schools more flexibility in how they implement these topics, exemption language for students moving into new school districts, and expanded the scope of the bill to include a greater breadth of financial institutions/scenarios.

Support for Senate Bill 99



- Margo Bellamy, ASD School Board President
- Matt Hunter, Teacher (17 years)
- Leola Rutherford, Concerned Parent, Educator, & 5th Generation Alaskan
- George L Stewart, Parent
- Nava A. Stephenson, Student
- Maria Nafzger, Student
- Harper Landry, Student
- Kelly Lessens, Anchorage School Board Treasurer and Finance Chair
- Nonie Mucha, Student
- And many more...

Questions?



Sources:

<https://www.thenationsreportcard.org/alaska>

<https://www.cnbc.com/amp/select/average-credit-card-balance-by-state/>

<https://educationdata.org/student-loan-debt-by-state>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-24/two-in-three-can-t-cover-400-emergency-in-us-suze-orman-survey>