

Hi Team,

As I mentioned a few minutes ago, you'll find Courtney Poquette's email advocating for Financial Literacy in our education system below.

Please share your thoughts on inviting her to one of our meetings for follow-up/addressing questions you may have or emailing her directly in response to her email.

Best,

Mohamed Diop

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Courtney Poquette <cpoquette@wsdvt.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 3:16 PM

Subject: Financial Literacy

To: Mohamed Diop <mdiop@wsdvt.org>

Hi Mohamed

Thank you for your willingness to talk to the State Board of Education about the need for Financial Literacy, particularly if it were to be listed in the EQS under 2120.5. This would align it with the [Agency of Education's website](#) where the National Financial Literacy standards were adopted in 2018. It is also under the portrait of the graduate, yet many schools seem to overlook this content since it isn't in the EQS. Right now in Vermont, [12 schools are guaranteeing that all students learn this](#).

This is an important topic, for many reasons. This [Education Week article](#) highlights the movement happening across the country, which has accelerated after the financial crisis that impacted many families during the pandemic.

[Half of the country](#) now guarantees that all students will learn about Financial Literacy. New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut have all moved ahead with this and Massachusetts has taken hours of testimony to add it to the books. Vermont students are falling behind our New England neighbors.

The [NGPF report](#) highlights the fact that students of color and those who receive free and reduced lunch are less likely to receive this education outside of the guarantee states, which is also true in Vermont.

The [Champlain College report](#) highlights our grade of a C, not changing as other states are moving ahead.

While I understand that there are budget constraints: adding this as a guarantee in Winooski did not cost any additional money. My training was free, the curriculum I used was free and there were no additional staffing requirements as it simply just replaced one elective requirement.

A new report coming out in early February will show that the benefit for each Vermont student who takes this class is close to \$100,000! This is definitely a worthwhile investment.

The state also has capacity with 71% of schools already offering a standalone Personal Finance class. We have a great training program for educators through the Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College, NextGen Personal Finance and our State's Jump\$tart Coalition. I continue to advocate for this and train educators, but it is important to list this in EQS so every student is guaranteed this education, which is already promised on the AOE's website. I would be happy to present on this if further discussion is necessary and I am happy to welcome anyone to my classroom where they can hear directly from the students.

Thank you for sharing with a committee who I know is very busy, but I do not want this to be forgotten when the document is finalized.

Courtney Poquette, who many heard speak as the 2024 Vermont Teacher of the Year Finalist

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