



California Personal Finance Education Initiative FACT SHEET

The California Personal Finance Education Initiative is a common-sense, non-partisan proposal aimed at providing essential financial education to high school students. It has overwhelming public support and addresses educational disparities, ensuring that every California student has the opportunity to acquire these critical life skills.

Initiative Objective: To guarantee California high school students will benefit from a personal finance course prior to graduating.

Why is this Initiative Needed?

- **Essential Life Skills:** Personal finance skills are vital in the 21st century, including budgeting, credit management, and understanding financial options for career or college.
- **California Lags Behind:** Only 1% of California high school students are required to take a personal finance course compared to nearly 50% nationally.
- **Equal Opportunity:** This initiative ensures that all students, regardless of their school or economic status, have an equal opportunity to learn essential financial skills.
- **Educational Impact:** Students who take financial education courses have better financial outcomes, including lower credit card debt, higher credit scores, and lower delinquency rates.

Support for the Initiative:

- **Polling Results:** Our campaign polling (**Binder Research**) in August 2023 shows that 78% of California voters would support this initiative, while only 13% would oppose it.
- **Public Polling:** A 2022 poll by **Public Policy Polling** found that 85% of Californians believe all high school students should be guaranteed a basic course in personal finance.
- **Non-Partisan:** The initiative is a common-sense, non-partisan idea with broad public support.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

EdSource

Backers of initiative to make personal finance a graduation requirement aim for 2024 ballot

[JOHN FENSTERWALD](#)

A new group, Californians for Financial Education, has submitted wording of a proposed initiative to the California Attorney General to mandate a one-semester course for a diploma starting in 2029-30, with all districts offering the course in 2026-27. It would include topics like developing budgeting skills for independent living, learning the importance of establishing credit while avoiding predatory loan practices, building an understanding of loans and college financing, learning about the tax system, and raising awareness of scams, fraud and identity theft.

Sep 05, 2023

POLITICO California Playbook

BY DUSTIN GARDINER, MELANIE MASON, LARA KORTE AND SEJAL GOVINDARAO

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — DOLLARS AND SENSE: Advocates worried about young people getting into too much credit card debt and botching their credit scores have a proposed solution: Make financial education a high school graduation requirement.

A coalition dubbed Californians for Financial Education plans to file language for the proposed November 2024 initiative today, the campaign told Playbook. The coalition is backed by Next Gen Personal Finance, a nonprofit that creates financial education curriculum. Next Gen has led a nationwide campaign to require high schoolers in every state to take at least a one-semester course in finance.