2026 NATIONAL REPORT CARD

Florida

CLASS OF 2026 GRADE

C

PROJECTED CLASS OF 2027 GRADE

A

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Is a high school course with personal finance concepts required to be taken as a graduation requirement?

No, personal finance is not included in the graduation requirements, either as a standalone course or embedded in another course for the Class of 2026. A half-credit economics course is a graduation requirement; however, since the passage of a 2019 law, this course is no longer required to include any personal finance content.

Sources:

- Florida High School Graduation Requirements

PRE-K TO GRADE EIGHT EDUCATION STANDARDS

The social studies standards for grades K-eight include economic standards that contain a very modest level of personal finance concepts. Grades four and eight include specific financial literacy standards that are expected to be taught in socials studies courses to all students.

Sources:

- Florida Financial Literacy Education Standards (click on "Social Studies" then on the relevant grade to see the economics standards)

PROJECTED GRADE FOR CLASS OF 2027

Grade A for the Class of 2027. State law requires that beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the 2023–2024 academic year (the Class of 2027), students must earn a half-credit (a half-year standalone course) in personal financial literacy and money management in order to graduate from high school. In March 2022, the governor signed into law a bill (SB 1054) with this requirement that also revised the topics required to be included in the state's financial literacy education standards. Accordingly, the bill reduces the current number of elective credits required to earn a standard high school diploma from eight to 7.5 credits. The state academic standards establish the core content of the curricula to be taught in the state and specify the core content knowledge and skills that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire. Florida state law requires financial literacy academic standards have specific curricular content for the following: (1) types of bank accounts offered, opening and managing a bank account, and assessing the quality of a depository institution's services; (2) balancing a checkbook; (3) basic principles of money management, such as spending, credit, credit scores, and managing debt, including retail and credit card debt; (4) completing a loan application; (5) receiving an inheritance and related implications; (6) basic principles of personal insurance policies; (7) computing federal income taxes; (8) local tax assessments; (9) computing interest rates by various mechanisms; (10) simple contracts; (11) contesting an incorrect billing statement; (12) types of savings and investments; (13) state and federal laws concerning

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finance; and (14) costs of postsecondary education, including cost of attendance, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarships and grants, and student loans. Florida has a process for approving instructional materials that can be used in classrooms and has adopted a list of approved materials for the high school financial literacy course.

Sources:

- § 1003.41, Fla. Stat
- § 1003.4282, Fla. Stat
- Florida Financial Literacy Education Standards (click on "Social Studies" then on "Grade 912" and on "Strand SS.912.FL: Financial Literacy" for the financial literacy standards)
- Policies and Procedures Specifications for the Florida Instructional Materials Adoption
- Instructional Materials 9-12 Personal Financial Literacy and Money Management

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS

Prior to 2019, every high school student was required to take a half-credit economics course in order to graduate. Substantive financial literacy topics were included in the social studies standards for this economics course. In our 2017 report, we estimated, based on the required economics course's education standards, that at least half of this half-year course was allocated to personal finance topics. In 2019, a law was passed that substantially changed what was required for financial literacy instruction in Florida's high schools. For the Class of 2020 until the class of 2026, school districts are required to offer a financial literacy course consisting of at least a half-credit as an elective; however, it is not a graduation requirement.

Sources:

- HB 7071 (pages 24 and 25)
- Florida Education Standards (click on "Social Studies" then on "Grade 912" for the relevant economic standards)

CAVEAT

It is not clear how Florida measures how many students take the available financial literacy elective course or student achievement in financial literacy.