



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Yes, for the Class of 2026, South Carolina requires students to take a half-year course in economics that includes personal finance concepts. In 2003, a law was passed that required instruction in the area of personal finance for all students attending a high school. The law required the Department of Education (DOE) to assist the school districts in identifying suitable materials for instruction. State law and regulations also require that all high schools offer financial literacy as a part of the instructional program.

Sources:

- [S.C. Code Ann. § 59-29-165](#)
- [S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234](#) Defined Program Grades 9–12 and Graduation Requirements (2017 version applicable to the Class of 2026)

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS

The social studies standards required to be taught for a half-year economics and personal finance course include personal finance concepts. There are four themes and 16 indicators for this course. One theme and four of the indicators are personal finance topics. Based on this information, we estimate that students receive approximately 15 hours of instruction in personal finance.

Sources:

- [Standards Social Studies](#)
- [South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards](#) (pages 128–133)

PROJECTED GRADE FOR CLASS OF 2027

Grade A for the Class of 2027. The graduation requirements beginning with the entering freshman class of 2023–2024 will include a standalone, half-year course in personal finance. The first class to graduate with this new requirement will be the Class of 2027. The appropriations bill passed by the South Carolina legislature in 2022 included language that instructed the DOE through the State Board of Education (BOE) *“to promulgate regulations to update the current graduation requirements to include within the existing credits a required half credit in personal finance.”* Full implementation of the standalone half-year personal finance course occurred in the 2023–2024 academic year. The DOE’s financial literacy webpage has recommended curricula and instructional resources that educators can use.

Sources:

- [DOE Personal Finance Memorandum](#)
- [High School Courses and Requirements](#)
- [S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-234](#) Defined Program Grades 9–12 and Graduation Requirements (2022 version applicable to classes entering 9th grade on or after 2023-2024 academic year)
- [Financial Literacy DOE Webpage](#)

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2026 NATIONAL REPORT CARD

South Carolina

CLASS OF
2026 GRADE



PROJECTED CLASS
OF 2027 GRADE



PRE-K TO GRADE EIGHT EDUCATION STANDARDS

A law was passed in 2005 requiring the BOE to incorporate elements of financial literacy into the academic standards for grades K to 12. Grades K to two include some personal finance concepts in the economics theme of the social studies standards. Grades three to eight do not include personal finance content in the social studies standards.

Sources:

- [South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards](#)
- [S.C. Code Ann. § 59-29-430](#)

EXTRA CREDIT

In a 2006 law, South Carolina created the following: (i) South Carolina Financial Literacy Initiative; (ii) South Carolina Financial Literacy Board of Trustees; and (iii) the Office of South Carolina Financial Literacy within the DOE. The DOE's website provides online resources for teachers of economics and financial literacy. The DOE also has standards available for financial literacy standalone courses as part of the finance career cluster. The DOE's financial literacy webpage has personal finance resources for educators to use.

Sources:

- [S.C. Code Ann. § 59-29-460 to 570](#)
- [Financial Literacy DOE Webpage](#)
- [Finance Cluster Course Standards](#)

CAVEAT

It is not clear how South Carolina measures high school student achievement in financial literacy or how the state monitors local school district implementation of the financial literacy education requirements in high school.