2026 NATIONAL REPORT CARD

# Texas

| CLASS OF 2026 GRADE | PROJECTED CLASS OF 2030 GRADE |
| --- | --- |
| B | A |

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Yes, Texas requires students to take three social studies credits as a graduation requirement. One-half credit (a half-year course) must be selected from the following two course options: Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits or Personal Financial Literacy/Economics. Both courses include financial literacy content.

**Sources:**

- State Graduation Requirements
- 19 Tex. Admin. Code §74.12

## PRE-K TO GRADE EIGHT EDUCATION STANDARDS

Texas requires personal finance topics to be taught in mathematics for grades K to eight. Modest levels of personal finance concepts are also embedded in the economics strand of the social studies standards in grades K to four.

**Sources:**

- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
- Standards Alignment Breakout Document (click on mathematics and social studies)

## PROJECTED GRADE FOR CLASS OF 2030

Grade A for the Class of 2030. On June 20, 2025, the governor signed into law a bill that requires all students to take a standalone course in personal financial literacy as a public high school graduation requirement. The State Board of Education (SBE) is required by the law to issue a rule requiring new social studies curriculum requirements for high school graduation. These new requirements shall apply to students entering the ninth grade in the 2026-2027 academic year and thereafter. Beginning in the 2029-2030 academic year, students must successfully complete a half-credit standalone personal financial literacy course in order to graduate. Student still have the option to take an economics course as part of the social studies curriculum requirements, but are no longer mandated to do so. The Texas Education Agency is required to develop a list of free, open-source, and publicly available curricula that may be used by a school district to provide a personal financial literacy course that satisfies this new curriculum graduation requirement. When the SBE adopts rules to implement this requirement, the law states that this adopting rule must allow students to comply with the new one-half credit in personal financial literacy graduation requirement by successfully completing an advanced placement course designated by the SBE as containing substantively similar and rigorous academic content.

**Sources:**

- HB 27

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## HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS

Texas requires students to demonstrate proficiency in three credits of social studies that includes a half-credit that must be selected from the following: (i) Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits or (ii) Personal Financial Literacy and Economics. There are 20 economics and personal financial literacy essential knowledge and skills identified for the Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits course; 15 are economic concepts and five are personal financial literacy concepts. Based on this information, we estimate that students taking this course receive approximately 15 hours of instruction in personal finance. There are 10 economic and personal financial literacy essential knowledge and skills identified in the Personal Financial Literacy and Economics course (PFLE), two with economics concepts and eight with personal financial literacy concepts. The PFLE course was added as an option in response to a law that was passed in 2021. The law required that high schools offer an additional economics course with 75% of the course content dedicated to personal financial literacy topics. This course is required to be offered starting with the 2022-2023 academic year. We estimate that students taking the PFLE course receive approximately 45 hours of instruction in personal finance. Starting with the 2016–2017 academic year, each high school must also offer students a Personal Financial Literacy course as a half-credit social studies elective course. Beginning with students enrolled in 12th grade during the 2021–2022 academic year, each student must do one of the following in order to graduate: (i) complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), (ii) complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA), or (iii) submit a signed opt-out form (by the student if 18 years of age or older or if younger by the student's guardian; the school counselor may also authorized the student to decline for good cause). School districts are required to report the financial aid application graduation requirement for each student to the Texas Education Agency.

**Sources:**

- 19 Tex. Admin. Code §74.12
- 19 Tex. Admin. Code §113.31 Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits
- 19 Tex. Admin Code §113.76 Personal Financial Literacy and Economics
- Personal Financial Literacy and Economics High School Course FAQ
- SB 1063
- 19 Tex. Admin. Code §113.49 Personal Financial Literacy (One-Half Credit)
- Tex. Occ. Code Ann. § 28.0021 Personal Financial Literacy

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## EXTRA CREDIT

The Texas Department of Education provides a list of approved resources for teachers of personal finance. Since 2012, Texas schools have also offered a Mathematical Models with Applications elective course, which includes personal finance concepts.

**Sources:**

- Financial Aid Requirement
- Texas Resources for Educators
- 19 Tex. Admin. Code §111.43 Mathematical Models with Applications

## CAVEAT

It is not clear how Texas measures student achievement in financial literacy. The SBE is required to select an AP course that can meet the requirements of the personal finance graduation requirement for the Class of 2030 through rulemaking. While an AP course that includes personal finance content has been made available, it is unclear if it would offer students the equivalent of a half-year course dedicated to the topic.