2026 NATIONAL REPORT CARD

Vermont

CLASS OF 2026 GRADE	PROJECTED CLASS OF 2031 GRADE
C	C

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

No, taking a course with personal finance concepts is not a graduation requirement. High school graduation requirements are determined by each local school district for the Class of 2026. The Education Quality Standards (EQS) are state regulations. The EQS indicates that the requirements for graduation are met when a student demonstrates evidence of proficiency in the required curriculum content areas.

Sources:

- Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements
- Education Quality Standards
- Education Quality Standards Rule (See: 2120.6 Curriculum Content Areas, 2120.7 Curriculum Coordination and 2120.8 Graduation Requirements)

PRE-K TO GRADE EIGHT EDUCATION STANDARDS

Vermont's financial literacy content standards apply to grades K to eight. How such education is delivered is determined by each local school district. It is expected that the method, quality, and quantity of this curriculum instruction varies greatly from school district to school district.

PROJECTED GRADE FOR CLASS OF 2031

No final policy change has occurred that would change Vermont's grade. However, a law was passed in 2025 that could increase Vermont's grade for the Class of 2031. Act 73 establishes a process for the development of statewide graduation requirements that will go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year. Statewide graduation requirements will be a departure from the existing practice of each individual school districts setting Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements that qualify a student for earning a diploma. The graduating class of 2031 will be the first cohort that statewide graduation requirements will apply to. Act 73 required the following timeline: (i) by January 1, 2026, the Agency of Education (AOE) will recommend statewide graduation requirements to the State Board of Education (SBOE); (ii) by July 1, 2027, the SBOE will adopt statewide graduation requirements (by amending the EQS rules); and (iii) statewide graduation requirements will go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year. On December 17, 2025, the AOE recommended graduation requirements to the SBOE that included a required a minimum of 0.5 credit (a half-year course) of standalone financial literacy content. If this recommendation is approved by the SBOE and finalized in EQS rules, then Vermont would receive a Grade A for the Class of 2031.

Sources:

- Act 73 of 2025 (See: Education Policy Changes, Statewide Graduation Requirements)
- AOE Statewide Graduation Requirement Recommendations

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

2026 NATIONAL REPORT CARD

Vermont

CLASS OF 2026 GRADE

C

PROJECTED CLASS OF 2031 GRADE

C

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS

The EQS requires that districts deliver curriculum in global citizenship, which includes economics concepts (including personal economics). In January of 2018, SBOE adopted the Jump$tart National Standards in K—12 Personal Finance Education. The SBOE determined that financial literacy curriculum could be taught in a multidisciplinary manner as part of social studies, math, business, family and consumer sciences, as well as through flexible pathways and career and technical education. The AOE indicates that local school districts are expected to instruct and assess financial literacy concepts based on these standards, but how that is accomplished is locally determined. In high school, local districts may offer personal finance content either on a standalone basis or embedded into another course offering. *NGPF's 2026 State of Financial Education Report* indicates that only 20.4% of Vermont students attend high schools where a standalone personal finance is a high school graduation requirement. NGPF's report indicates that 42.8% of students attend high schools where personal finance topics are embedded in the curriculum and 36.8% of student attend high schools that offer a standalone personal finance course elective.

Sources:

- Financial Literacy
- Jump$tart National Standards in K—12 Personal Finance Education
- NGPF's 2026 State of Financial Education Report

EXTRA CREDIT

The AOE has a variety of financial literacy resources and tools on its website for educators.

Sources:

- Financial Literacy Tools and Resources

CAVEAT

It is not clear how Vermont measures student achievement in financial literacy or how the state monitors local school district implementation of the multidisciplinary financial literacy education requirements to ensure equitable access to this content knowledge.