2026 NATIONAL REPORT CARD

Wisconsin

CLASS OF 2026 GRADE

C

PROJECTED CLASS OF 2028 GRADE

A

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

No, Wisconsin does not require any specific courses for graduation for the Class of 2026.

Sources:

- Wisconsin Graduation Requirements (please note that the Personal Financial Literacy course referenced on this website page applies to the Class of 2028 and all subsequent graduates)

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS

In 2017, Wisconsin passed a law requiring each local school board to adopt academic standards for financial literacy and incorporate instruction in financial literacy into the curriculum in grades K to 12. Implementation of this requirement is left to local school districts with modest oversight by the state. The law does not specify a delivery mechanism for the required financial literacy instruction. Most, but not all, local schools in Wisconsin offer a standalone course in personal finance. *NGPF's 2026 State of Financial Education Report* indicates that about 49.1% of student attend a high school where taking a standalone personal finance course is a local graduation requirement. Another 42.6% of students attend a high school that offers a standalone personal finance course as an elective.

Sources:

- WI Act 94
- Personal Financial Literacy
- NGPF's 2026 State of Financial Education Report
- PFL Standards

PROJECTED GRADE FOR CLASS OF 2028

Grade A for the Class of 2028. On December 6, 2023, the Governor signed a bill into law requiring that students graduating from high school in the Class of 2028 must take a half-year personal financial literacy course prior to graduating from high school. Wisconsin law prohibits school boards from issuing high school diplomas to students unless they complete certain minimum credit requirements in specified subject areas. The law passed in 2023 creates a new and additional requirement for students to complete at least 0.5 credit of personal financial literacy. The course must include financial mindset, education and employment, money management, saving and investing, credit and debt, and risk management and insurance. The requirement first applies to students graduating from high school in 2028. Teachers holding licenses to teach social studies, family and consumer sciences, or business and information technology are qualified to teach this course due to the connection between their standards and the personal financial literacy standards.

Sources:

- Act 60
- Wisconsin Graduation Requirements
- PFL Graduation Requirement
- Personal Financial Literacy (PFL) FAQ
- PFL Standards
- PFL Licensing

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PRE-K TO GRADE EIGHT EDUCATION STANDARDS

Wisconsin has education standards that apply to grades K to eight, and local school districts are required to incorporate personal finance instruction into the curriculum of these grades.

Sources:

- PFL Standards

EXTRA CREDIT

In 2010, a Governor's Council on Financial Literacy & Capability was created. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's website includes a list of financial literacy resources for educators to use in their classrooms.

Sources:

- Wisconsin Governor's Council
- Personal Financial Literacy Resources

CAVEAT

It is not clear how Wisconsin measures student achievement in financial literacy or how the state will monitor local school district implementation of the personal financial literacy education requirements to ensure equitable access to this content knowledge to all high school students.