



**House Education Budget  
Representative Gordon, Chair**

**H.B. 2645 – Personal Finance**

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Madame Chair, Members of the Committee:

In 2009 Assistant Superintendent Denise Wren began working with a group of local leaders involved in financial industry including banks, investors, real estate and others. The community group outlined the elements necessary to be an informed person capable of managing ones finances. From their conversations a group of our teachers developed a curriculum outline which was further reviewed by the community group.

Personal Finance is the latest buzz in education – as a result a proliferation of organizations and businesses have created “curriculum”. Wichita teachers and community partners decided it would be of greater benefit for students to use a number of available resources, not just one. Our teachers researched available curriculum (not all free curriculum is high quality) and created the course sequence. This was a lengthy project.

The district received \$25,000 grant from the Securities Commissioner’s office to help defray training costs. During the 10/11 school year the curriculum was piloted in four schools. The teachers participated in two full days of training.

After the first pilot year, the four teachers spent a great deal of time revising the sequence, support materials and curriculum; along with revisions to training for the new teachers required to offer the course in each high school. The Board of Education increased the graduation credit to require Personal Finance as a graduation requirement.

Today nearly 10 teachers are teaching Personal Finance full-time. Because this is a graduation requirement additional costs were incurred to develop an adaptive curriculum modified for special education students.

Madame Chair, we provide this information to help the committee understand the cost, time, training, curriculum development and staff required to provide a high quality required course.