

State of Kansas
House of Representatives



April, 2015

Dear School Board President/School District Superintendent:

House Bill 2232 was presented to the House Education Committee this Legislative Session. That bill would have required all students in grades 11 and 12 to take and pass a personal financial literacy course as a requirement for graduation and would have specified the subject areas and topics that would be required to be covered in all such courses.

In lieu of this mandate, members of the House Education Committee and the State Board of Education developed this letter to each school district.

We recognize that personal financial literacy education is an essential part of providing each and every student with the *Rose* factor capacities set forth in K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 72-1127(c), and most notably for factor (c)(2) which requires students to have sufficient knowledge of economic systems to enable students to make informed choices. We know that various members of Kansas communities, such as the banking industry and credit collection agencies, affirm the need for increased financial literacy in our citizens. We know that over half of the State's school districts have some form of financial literacy education for their students. We also trust that you – local school board members and local educators - know what will work best for the students in your communities.

We also know that the local school board has the ultimate responsibility for developing a financial literacy policy and financial literacy curriculum.

In light of all this, we strongly encourage each local board of education, that has not yet done so, to pass and implement a policy on the instruction and the desired outcomes of personal financial literacy education in the manner best suited to your district. The possibilities could include creating a financial literacy class, embedding financial literacy education in various current classes, or holding a financial literacy night for students and their families – as only a few examples of educational opportunities a district might choose. We recognize the fact that these examples represent differing levels of rigor.

While this might be a challenge, we understand there are a host of resources for your use *via* the Kansas Department of Education, available to assist your district.

The State Board will continue to monitor course offerings and the Kansas Department of Education will be providing a progress report to legislative education committees during the 2016 Legislative Session.

Thank you for partnering with us on this issue so important to the future of our state.

Rep. Ron Highland, Chair
House Education Committee

Jim McNiece, Chair
Kansas State Board of Education