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**SENATE BILL 5080**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Valdez, Cortes, Harris, Krishnadasan, Lias, Nobles, Orwall, Riccelli, Saldaña, Shewmake, Trudeau, and C. Wilson; by request of State Treasurer

Prefiled 12/19/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to making financial education instruction a  
2 graduation requirement; amending RCW 28A.300.468; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that  
6 acquiring and applying a basic knowledge of personal finance is  
7 critical to the economic well-being of all adults. Without this  
8 knowledge, persons are much less well equipped to navigate the  
9 complicated financial issues of modern life, including household  
10 budgets, consumer debt, loan applications and obligations, and  
11 successful retirement planning.

12 (2) The legislature also recognizes that it has taken meaningful  
13 steps to support financial education instruction in public schools,  
14 including establishing the financial education public-private  
15 partnership in 2004, adopting financial education learning standards  
16 in 2015, and providing funds in 2022 for financial education  
17 professional development for certificated staff.

18 (3) In recognition of the relevance and importance of personal  
19 finance knowledge, the ongoing efforts of the financial education  
20 public-private partnership, and the ability of public schools to  
21 teach or continue teaching financial education instruction, the

1 legislature intends to ensure that all Washington students are  
2 provided financial education instruction. Therefore, the legislature  
3 intends to make financial education instruction a graduation  
4 requirement.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.468 and 2015 c 211 s 4 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) After consulting with the financial education public-private  
8 partnership, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
9 shall make available to all school districts a list of instructional  
10 materials that align with the financial education learning standards  
11 (~~((integrated into the state learning standards pursuant to RCW~~  
12 ~~28A.300.460(2)(d))~~) adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

13 (2) School districts shall provide all students in grades nine  
14 through twelve the opportunity to access the financial education  
15 standards, whether through a regularly scheduled class period; before  
16 or after school; during lunch periods; at library and study time; at  
17 home; via online learning opportunities; through career and technical  
18 education course equivalencies; or other opportunities. School  
19 districts shall publicize the availability of financial education  
20 opportunities to students and their families. School districts are  
21 encouraged to grant credit toward high school graduation to students  
22 who successfully complete financial education courses.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1)(a) Beginning in or before the 2029-30 school year, each  
26 school district that operates a high school shall provide all high  
27 school students with financial education instruction that is  
28 consistent with the state financial education learning standards  
29 adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

30 (b) Each student must meet high school learning standards related  
31 to financial education in order to graduate from high school,  
32 beginning with the earlier of the graduating class (i) of 2033 or  
33 (ii) as recommended by the state board of education.

34 (2)(a) The state board of education shall recommend needed  
35 adjustments to graduation requirements and other educational  
36 offerings in order to ensure students have adequate opportunity to  
37 meet the graduation requirement established in subsection (1)(b) of  
38 this section.

1 (b) In developing the recommendations, the state board of  
2 education shall:

3 (i) Consult with the financial education public-private  
4 partnership, students, parents and guardians, educators, K-12  
5 education partners, postsecondary partners, employers, and community  
6 members;

7 (ii) Consider how students may meet financial education learning  
8 standards and develop other skills and knowledge in the state's  
9 profile of a graduate developed under section 1, chapter 144, Laws of  
10 2021 while meeting standards in core subject areas; and

11 (iii) Consider how to incorporate the requirement established in  
12 subsection (1)(b) of this section into the framework of graduation  
13 requirements, including consideration of credit options and  
14 competency-based options.

15 (c) The state board of education shall submit a report with  
16 recommendations to the governor and education committees of the  
17 legislature by December 31, 2026.

18 (3) (a) By December 15, 2025, school districts shall submit to the  
19 state board of education and the financial education public-private  
20 partnership established in RCW 28A.300.450:

21 (i) A list of courses and other learning opportunities offered on  
22 financial education for high school students in their district during  
23 or prior to the 2024-25 school year and the number of students served  
24 by those offerings; and

25 (ii) A description of what the school district may need in order  
26 to ensure that students are able to meet the graduation requirement  
27 established in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

28 (b) The financial education public-private partnership shall  
29 analyze the information provided under (a) of this subsection and  
30 create a statewide implementation plan for the requirements of this  
31 section. The plan, which must be submitted to the office of the  
32 superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education,  
33 and, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the appropriate committees of  
34 the legislature by December 31, 2026, may include recommendations for  
35 additional funding for grants to integrate financial literacy  
36 education into professional development for certificated staff and  
37 other school district resources in accordance with submissions  
38 provided under (a) of this subsection.

39 (4) Beginning no later than the 2027-28 school year, school  
40 districts shall publicize the offering of financial education

1 instruction, and the associated graduation requirement, to students  
2 and their parents or legal guardians.

3 (5) Students in grade 12 who have not been able to meet the  
4 graduation requirement established in subsection (1)(b) of this  
5 section because of previous residence outside the state may have the  
6 requirement waived by their principal. Waivers provided in accordance  
7 with this subsection (5) may only be issued on an individual basis.

8 (6)(a) The state board of education shall review and monitor  
9 financial education offerings to ensure school district compliance  
10 with the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section. The  
11 reviews and monitoring required by this subsection (6) may be  
12 conducted concurrently with other oversight and monitoring conducted  
13 by the state board of education.

14 (b) The state board of education, in accordance with RCW  
15 43.01.036, shall provide a summary of the information collected under  
16 this subsection (6) for school years 2027-28 and 2028-29 to the  
17 appropriate committees of the legislature by January 10, 2029.

18 (7) This section governs school operation and management under  
19 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools  
20 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education  
21 compact schools subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same extent as  
22 it applies to school districts.

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