

**INSTRUCTION IN PERSONAL FINANCE
IN VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**REPORTED TO
THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**



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Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, adopted by the General Assembly in 1974, reads in part as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, that the Board of Education is hereby directed to make a report to the General Assembly on the present and planned programs for the inclusion of classroom instruction on personal finance in the curriculum of the public schools. The Board shall report to the General Assembly not later than December one, nineteen hundred seventy-four."

A committee including representatives of the Virginia Bankers Association, the Office of Consumer Affairs, institutions of higher education, the Virginia Education Association, and public school representatives reviewed present programs with personnel in the Department of Education.

The following report reflects the status of personal finance in the public school curriculum and of plans which are under way to strengthen the teaching of this subject.

Elementary Education - Present Program in Personal Finance

For many years Virginia has considered economic education as an integral part of the elementary school curriculum. The present program of personal finance is integrated into the social studies curriculum in the elementary grades. In 1967, the bulletin, Elementary School Economics, was prepared to help public school instructional personnel place greater emphasis on basic economics in the elementary schools. Approximately 27,000 copies of this bulletin have been requested by personnel in local school divisions.

This bulletin includes many important concepts and understandings related to personal finance. These concepts are developed in a sequential manner beginning with the simple experiences which grow out of the daily learning activities of young children. Older children in the elementary schools are able to deal with more abstract concepts in personal finance.

The bulletin includes economic understandings, suggested learning activities, and suggested resources for each grade from kindergarten through grade seven.

Many economic understandings included in the Elementary School Economics bulletin are directly related to personal finance (See Attachment A).

Elementary Education - Planned Program

The staff of the Division of Elementary Education will continue to emphasize instruction in personal finance in the schools and will provide assistance for teachers through conferences, development of teaching materials, in-service programs, and workshops.

Supervisory personnel in the Department of Education will help local school divisions, including teachers, to continue to make personal finance a significant part of the elementary curriculum.

Secondary Education - Present Program in Personal Finance

In the junior and senior high schools, economic understandings and concepts are included in mathematics, social studies, and vocational programs.

Mathematics - Background Information

During the era of the so-called "new" or "modern mathematics," considerable emphasis was often given to the structure and theory of mathematics and less attention was devoted to the practical application of the subject. During that period the belief also was prevalent that problems relating to consumer mathematics had greater meaning for students in the twelfth grade than for those in the lower grades. This resulted, in some cases, in less emphasis being given to problems relating to personal finance, particularly in the eighth and ninth grades.

Review of State-Adopted Textbooks

Currently there are 22 general mathematics textbooks in grades eight and nine on the State-adopted list. These books were reviewed and it was found that most of them do not contain a great deal of information relating to personal finance. Five of them, however, are basically consumer mathematics books and do contain a wealth of material on personal finance.

In view of the scarcity of information about personal finance in the eighth and ninth grade textbooks, many students who did not take the course in consumer mathematics which is generally offered in the twelfth grade received very little instruction dealing with this subject. It should be noted, however, that many of the eighth and ninth grade teachers included units of instruction on personal finance to meet the needs of their classes. A course in consumer mathematics in the twelfth grade was offered as an elective course in 155 schools during the 1973-74 school year.

Mathematics - Present Program

The present program in mathematics includes courses in general mathematics in the eighth and ninth grades. Those pupils who are interested in mathematics and those who need additional math for subsequent careers, move through a sequence of two years of algebra, one year of geometry, and some type of advanced mathematics. Those students who are not mathematically inclined, or who for some reason do not elect to take the academic mathematics, may take a course in a more advanced yet practical mathematics course which generally deals with consumer math problems and those of personal finance.

Social Studies - Present Program

Social studies programs in grades eight through twelve in the secondary schools place considerable emphasis on the teaching of matters relating to personal finance. The course in Virginia and United States Government, which is required for students in grade twelve, includes the following topics:

Basic principles of the American economic system

The consumer and the economy

The nature of money

Income taxes

Resources and needs of citizens

Credit systems (charge account plans, lay-away plans, credit applications)

Banking (checking accounts, savings accounts, and loans)

The nature of interest

Services of the Better Business Bureau

Labeling and unit pricing

Inflation

Patterns of economic growth

Other topics emphasize how to get a job, how to manage money, and how to spend income wisely.

The social studies curriculum includes three required courses.

They are: one course in Virginia and United States History; one course in Virginia and United States Government; and one course in World History and/or Geography. The course in Virginia and United States Government, which is required of all students who graduate from a secondary school in Virginia, places a great deal of emphasis on economic education and personal finance.

In addition, a number of elective courses in the social studies field include material on personal finance. Attachment B indicates those schools, grades offered, and enrollment in a separate course in economics during the 1973-74 school session.

Attachment C indicates those schools which offered a separate course in consumer economics and personal finance during the 1973-74 school session.

Secondary Education - Planned Program

Mathematics - Planned Program

The mathematics curriculum guide is currently being revised by the Division of Secondary Education. This revision will include topics relating to personal finance for students in the eighth and ninth grades as well as for those enrolled in the twelfth grade course in consumer mathematics.

The Mathematics Service is developing an independent unit of instruction in personal finance which may be taught in any grade, beginning with grade eight. Emphasis also will be given to teaching personal finance to students in the eighth or ninth grades and to all students at some period during the junior-senior high school years.

In selecting mathematics textbooks in the forthcoming adoptions by the Board of Education, consideration will be given to materials dealing with personal finance.

Social Studies - Planned Program

Revisions which are planned in the social studies program to place more emphasis on personal finance include updating the History and Social Science Resource Center to include additional material on personal finance and sample teaching units which will be available for teachers to borrow. Also planned are in-service workshops in local

school divisions, State conferences, periodic review of curriculum materials, and increased efforts to encourage classroom teachers to use local resources in developing instructional programs in personal finance.

Other aspects of the program include: encouraging teachers to take students to banks and to other appropriate institutions to learn about credit applications, lay-away plans, and banking procedures; assisting teachers in the preparation of units of instruction on local finance and related matters; continuing review of personal finance and related matters in curriculum development as social studies personnel work with local school divisions and teacher training institutions.

Vocational Education - Present Program

Each of the vocational education programs includes units on personal finance. The extent to which these units are taught is related to the nature of the program. For instance, a great deal of instruction in personal finance is included in business education and home economics programs.

Attachment D indicates vocational education courses which include units on personal finance, the name of the unit, and the number of students enrolled in the course annually.

The use of outside resources has been important in business education programs. Banks, credit institutions, department store credit offices, and other institutions have contributed to the program. An educational television series called "Dollar Sense" also has been used throughout the State.

Units on personal finance have been taught to all students enrolled in cooperative education. This instruction reflects the belief that when students begin to earn money, this is the most appropriate time to begin teaching them about personal finance.

The need for instruction in personal finance in the public schools is very important and without this background, the practical application which occurs after graduation is difficult for many citizens.

Vocational Education - Planned Program

Vocational courses will continue to place emphasis upon the teaching of personal finance. This topic is integrated into the vocational curriculum in such a way that any student who completes a vocational program will be certain to have appropriate instruction in personal finance.

Pre-Service Teacher Education

In order to be certain that appropriate emphasis is given to personal finance in the classroom, it is important that teachers know and understand the subject matter. The Committee recommended that during the teacher training program each prospective teacher be exposed to course activities which contribute to the knowledge of personal finance. These topics may be considered as an essential part of an approved program of teacher education.

Areas of Personal Finance in the
Elementary Economics Guide

Area VI - Money

Money serves as a convenient medium of exchange.

Trading or bartering is a way of exchanging goods and services without the use of money.

Money pays for goods and services that people need and want.

Money cannot buy everything that people need and want.

Money has different names, forms, and values.

Money has value in terms of goods purchased and services performed.

Money is made of paper or metal for convenience.

Money is legal tender when it is guaranteed by the government.

Each metal coin and paper bill has a definite name and value.

A check or money order may be used in place of money in purchasing goods and services.

Money values change over periods of time and in different countries.

Money is received for work in producing goods and rendering services.

The amount of money received varies according to skill and quality of work performed.

All work requires education or training for skill development.

Work requiring more education or greater skill development usually provides higher income.

A budget is a plan for spending and saving income.

Budgeting apportions family income to meet needs, wants, and emergencies.

Budgeting money can help families and governments to live within incomes.

Savings should be a part of every family budget.

Money earned and saved helps to provide financial security.

Wise spending increases the purchasing power of money.

Money is spent more wisely when the value of products and services is known.

Quantity and quality are factors which determine cost of a product or service.

Banks and other institutions play important roles in economic life.

Banks are safe places to keep money.

Banks pay interest for use of money.

Interest is paid to banks for use of money.

Banks provide varied services.

Area VII - Taxes

A portion of all income is paid to the government in taxes.

Public revenue comes from personal and corporation income taxes, excise, sales, employment (Social Security) and property taxes.

Taxes are necessary to support county, city, state and federal governments.

Payment of taxes to support government is a responsibility of all people.

People benefit from taxes paid.

Taxes pay for public facilities and for services performed better by agencies than by individuals.

Such facilities as schools, highways and parks belong to all citizens.

Protection and care of public property help to save tax money to provide more and better services and facilities.

Other economic understandings related to personal finance are a part of the section on the Free Enterprise System in the economics bulletin.

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HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

1973 - 1974

Title of Course - EconomicsTotal Enrollment - 3,054Number of Schools Offering Course - 114

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>
<u>Counties</u>			
Accomack	Central High	9-11	19
Amelia	Amelia County High		21
Amherst	Amherst County High	11-12	24
Appomattox	Appomattox County High	11-12	50
Arlington	Washington Lee High		24
Augusta	Buffalo Gap High	11-12	33
	Riverheads High	12	27
	Stuarts Draft High	11-12	7
	Wilson Memorial High		20
Bland	Rocky Gap Comb.	11-12	6
Brunswick	Brunswick Sr. High	12	29
Buchanan	Grundy Senior High	11-12	18
	Council High	11-12	11
	Hurley High	10	26
Campbell	Rustburg High	11-12	39
	William Campbell High	11-12	10
	Brookville High	11-12	26
Caroline	Bowling Green Sr. High	11-12	19
Carroll	Vaughan Intermediate	9	30
Charles City	Charles City High	12	11
Chesterfield	Midlothian High	11-12	17
Craig	New Castle High	11-12	10
Dickenson	Ervinton High	11-12	14

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>
<u>Counties</u>			
Fairfax	Fairfax Sr. High	11-12	56
	Herndon High	11-12	32
	McLean High	11-12	24
	Lee High	11-12	55
	Madison High	12	32
	Woodson High	11-12	19
	Jefferson High	11-12	60
	Langley High	11-12	23
	West Springfield High	11-12	33
	Robinson Secondary	9-12	12
	Hayfield High and Int.	10-12	25
	Fauquier	Fauquier High	11-12
Floyd	Floyd County High	10-12	12
Franklin	Franklin County High	12	85
Frederick	James Wood High	12	15
Giles	Giles High	11-12	25
Gloucester	Gloucester High	10-12	14
Hanover	Patrick Henry High	10-12	21
Henrico	Varina High	11-12	29
	J.R. Tucker High	10-12	44
	Henrico High	12	33
Henry	G.W. Carver High	11-12	17
	Laurel Park High	11	25
	John D. Bassett High		21
Isle of Wight	Smithfield High	11-12	26
	Windson High	11-12	45
King and Queen	Central High	10-11	12
King William	King William High	11-12	12
Lee	Pennington High	11-12	10
Loudoun	Loudoun County High	12	19
	Broad Run High	12	22
Northampton	Northampton Sr. High	11-12	2
Page	Page County High	12	46
Pittsylvania	Dan River Sr. High	11-12	15
Pulaski	Pulaski High	12	20
	Dublin High	11-12	50

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>
<u>Counties</u>			
Roanoke	Andrew Lewis High	11-12	14
	Cave Spring High	12	106
	Northside High	12	7
Rockingham	Elkton High	9-11	32
	Broadway High	12	50
	Turner Ashby High	11-2	23
	John C. Myers	8	22
	John W. Wayland		105
Russell	Lebanon High	12	12
Scott	Twin Springs High	10-11	15
Shenandoah	Strasburg High	11-12	12
	Central High	10-12	20
Smyth	R.B. Worthy High	11-12	10
	Chilhowie High	11-12	29
	Marion Senior High	12	23
Sussex	Central High	11-12	185
Tazewell	Richlands High	11-12	25
Washington	Abingdon High	10-12	10
	John S. Battle High	11-12	36
	Holston High	10-12	12
Wise	Coeburn High	12	14
	Appalachia High	12	16
	St. Paul Comb.	12	9
	J.J. Kelly High	10-12	10
	Powell Valley High	11-12	14
Wythe	Rural Retreat Comb.	11-12	14
	George Wythe High	10-12	21
<u>Cities</u>			
Alexandria	T.C. Williams High	11-12	34
Bristol	Virginia High	11-12	26
Covington	Covington High	11-12	11
Falls Church	George Mason Jr. Sr. H	9-12	11
Fredericksburg	James Monroe High	12	9
Hampton	Kecoughtan High	12	68
	Hampton High	10-12	19

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>
<u>Cities</u>			
Hampton	Pembroke High	12	17
Harrisonburg	Harrisonburg High	11-12	12
Hopewell	Hopewell High	11-12	24
Lynchburg	E.C. Glass High	11-12	39
Martinsville	Martinsville High	12	9
Newport News	Warwick High	12	9
	Homer L. Ferguson High	11-12	16
	Denbigh High	11-12	6
Norfolk	Maury High	11-12	26
	Norview High	11-12	23
Roanoke	Patrick Henry High	10-12	8
Staunton	Robert E. Lee High	11-12	42
Virginia Beach	First Colonial High	11-12	44
	Princess Anne High		5
Lexington	Lexington High	11-12	17
Nansemond	John F. Kennedy High	10-12	49
	John Yeates High	10-12	17
	Forest Glen High	12	28
<u>Towns</u>			
Colonial Beach	Colonial Beach Comb.	10-12	20
Poquoson	Poquoson High	10-12	20
West Point	West Point High	11-12	24

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

1973 - 1974

Title of Course - Consumer Economics and Personal FinanceTotal Enrollment - 534Number of Schools Offering Course - 10

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADES</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>
<u>Counties</u>			
Arlington	Wakefield High	10-12	26
Fauquier	Fauquier High	11-12	44
<u>Cities</u>			
Hampton	Bethel High	11-12	29
	Hampton High	10-12	54
	Kecoughtan High	10-12	178
	Pembroke High	12	60
Norfolk	B.T. Washington High	10-12	10
	Lake Taylor High	10-12	65
	Norview High	10-12	34
	Maury High	12	34

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Classroom Instruction In Personal Finance
In Virginia's Public Schools
 1973-74

<u>Name of Class</u>	<u>Units Taught</u>	<u>No. Enrolled Annually</u>
<u>Agricultural Education</u>		
Agricultural Production IV	Budgeting the Family Income	1,200
<u>Business Education</u>		
General Business	Managing Your Money The Consumer in the Marketplace Using Credit Wisely Practical Money Management Making Money Payments Saving and Investing Money Economic Risks and Insurance Earning an Income	22,584
Business Economics	Bank Services and Loans Money Management Consumer and the Marketplace Planning an Insurance Program Housing Principles of Good Buying Credit	593
Business Law	Contracts and Negotiable Instruments Buying Goods and Services Buying Protection Debtors and Creditors	2,362
Block Programs-Vocational Business Education		9,777
	Budgeting Credit Savings and Investing Insurance Home Ownership Banking Services Buying Guides	
<u>Distributive Education</u>		
Education for Employment Grade 7	Using Your Earnings Wisely	300
Education for Employment Grade 9	Effective Use of Your Employment Dollar	600
DE I Preparatory Grade 10	Financial Institutions and the Young Worker	6,100
DE III Coop 12th Grade	Role of Consumer Credit In the American Economy The Individual's Credit Rating	2,000

Classroom Instruction In Personal Finance
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1973-74

<u>Name of Class</u>	<u>Units Taught</u>	<u>No. Enrolled Annually</u>
<u>Home Economics Education</u>		
Consumer and Homemaking Grade 6	Youth and Money	5,690
Consumer and Homemaking Grade 7	Youth and Spending	20,616
Consumer and Homemaking I	The Young Consumer In The Home	25,975
Consumer and Homemaking II	Family Living and Money	13,100
Consumer and Homemaking III	Family Consumer Responsibility	5,864
Family Living or Consumer and Homemaking IV	Family Money Management	3,153
<u>Home Economics - Specialized Areas</u>		
	Consumer Economics Home Management	133
	Child Development	418
	Home Furnishings and Housing	170
	Marriage and the Family	228
	Food Management	748
	Clothing Management	841
HE - Pre-Occupational	Youth and Money	789
	Youth and Spending	
Consumer and Homemaking Disadvantaged - Adapted	Youth and Money	1,443
<u>Occupational Home Economics:</u>		
	Management of Personal Income	
	Foods Occupations	1,396
	Clothing Occupations	802
	Child Care Occupations	320
	Home & Institutional Occupations	221
	Home Furnishings Occupations	89
<u>Trade and Industrial Education</u>		
Industrial Cooperative Training II	Using Consumer Credit	1,600

