



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Yes, each student is required to take a half-year economics course (plus a half-year U.S. government course) or a full-year problems of democracy course. Since July 1, 2010, each school district has been required to ensure that its curriculum for either the economics or problems of democracy course includes the following concepts of personal finance: (i) checkbook mechanics, including writing checks, balancing, and statement reconciliation; (ii) saving for larger purchases; (iii) credit, including credit card usage, interest, and fees; (iv) earning power, including jobs for teenagers; (v) taxation and paycheck withholdings; (vi) college costs; (vii) making and living within a budget; and (viii) mortgages, retirement savings, and investments. The Choice Ready Guidance indicates that this financial literacy education requirement may also be met by incorporating the concepts listed above into the curriculum for any of these courses: Economics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, Problems of Democracy, or Financial Literacy. Upon written request, the superintendent of public instruction may allow a school district to select courses other than economics or problems of democracy for purposes of exposing students to the concepts of personal finance.

Sources:

- [15.1-21-02.2. High school graduation - Minimum requirements](#)
- [North Dakota Choice Ready chart](#)
- [Academic and Career Planning](#)
- [Choice Ready Guidance](#) (see page 3)
- [15.1-21-21. Concepts of personal finance - Inclusion in curriculum](#)

PROJECTED GRADE FOR CLASS OF 2024

No policy change is pending that would change North Dakota's grade.

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS

North Dakota social studies standards has grades 6 to 12 economics standards that include financial literacy concepts. One of the seven standards is personal finance content. The economics standards consist of a total of 17 benchmarks, and five of them are personal finance in nature. We estimate that a half-year economics course would consist of about 18 hours of instruction. Since the personal finance high school education requirement in North Dakota can be delivered in multiple ways, it is impossible to estimate the number of instructional hours all students receive. In addition, state law requires each school to administer to students during their enrollment in grades 9 or 10 a career interest inventory.

Sources:

- [North Dakota 2019 Grades K – 12 Social Studies Content Standards](#) (pages 23–25)
- [15.1-21-18. Career interest inventory - Educational and career planning - Consultation](#)
- [RURReadyND](#)

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PRE-K TO GRADE 8 EDUCATION STANDARDS

North Dakota's social studies standards include modest personal finance content to be taught in grades K to 5 as well as in the grades 6 to 8 standards. State law requires each school to administer to students during their enrollment in grades 7 or 8 a career interest inventory. In grades 7 or 8 the state also requires students to complete a nine-week course on exploring career decisions or individual counseling with each student to: (i) discuss the results of the student's career interest inventory; (ii) select high school courses appropriate to their educational pursuits and career interests; and (iii) develop individual high school education plans.

Sources:

- [North Dakota 2019 Grades K – 12 Social Studies Content Standards](#) (pages 12–13 and 23–25)
- [15.1-21-18. Career interest inventory - Educational and career planning - Consultation](#)
- [RUReadyND](#)
- [Grade 7-8 Course Code 20005 Exploring Career Decisions](#)

EXTRA CREDIT

North Dakota's Department of Financial Institutions has a clearinghouse of financial literacy resources that educators may use.

Sources:

- [Financial Literacy Resources](#)

CAVEAT

It is not clear how North Dakota measures student achievement in financial literacy or how the state monitors local school district implementation of the financial literacy education requirement.