



RI Financial Literacy Implementation Guide: **Overview**

In June 2021, Rhode Island Governor McKee signed a law ([RIGL 16-22-13](#)) requiring the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the RI Department of Education (RIDE), to develop and approve [statewide academic standards](#) for the instruction of consumer education in public high schools. This law also mandates that each LEA (Local Education Agency) offer a course aligned with the state standards and, beginning with the graduating class of 2024, that all students demonstrate proficiency in consumer education prior to graduating high school. LEAs shall have the discretion to allow students the ability to demonstrate proficiency by one or more of the following:

- Successful completion of a standards-aligned consumer education course of study
- Successful completion of a standards-aligned project
- Successful completion of a standards-aligned consumer education assessment
- Another demonstration of proficiency approved by the Council

This legislation helps ensure that every Rhode Islander graduates high school with an understanding of how to manage their personal finances. This can break cycles of poverty, and make sure that all families can benefit from our economy.

While this is the first time personal finance is being written into law, it has been a topic of discussion at the state and national levels for many years.

In the academic year 2014-15, a group of Rhode Island educators worked with the K-12 Council to adopt personal financial literacy standards aligned to national best practices. These standards have since been updated as ***The Council for Economic Education (CEE)*** merged their standards with the national ***Jump\$tart*** standards, with the goal of melding the best elements of these two national sets of standards. These updates use equitable and inclusive student-centered language that is gender-neutral and recognizes the different types of families and household circumstances of students.

These [updated standards](#) were brought before the Council of Elementary & Secondary Education, and on December 7, 2021 were officially endorsed for the state of Rhode Island.

RIDE has created resources to help LEAs and their leadership make decisions about how to best implement this legislation. While this is not meant to be an exhaustive list of resources, it is meant to be a starting point for schools.