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HOUSE BILL 1285

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Rude, Stonier, Lekanoff, Doglio, Couture, Connors, Berry, Bronoske, Leavitt, Ryu, Davis, Barkis, Orcutt, Jacobsen, Goodman, Walsh, Steele, Paul, Tharinger, Klicker, Nance, Eslick, Taylor, Caldier, Parshley, Keaton, Ley, Timmons, Pollet, Fey, Simmons, and Hill

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to making financial education instruction a  
2 graduation requirement in public schools; amending RCW 28A.300.468;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; creating new sections;  
4 and providing expiration dates.

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

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

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

19 In recognition of the relevance and importance of personal  
20 finance knowledge, the ongoing efforts of the financial education  
21 public-private partnership, and the ability of public schools to

1 teach or continue teaching financial education instruction, the  
2 legislature intends to ensure that all Washington students are  
3 provided financial education instruction. Therefore, the legislature  
4 intends to make financial education instruction a graduation  
5 requirement for public schools.

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

8 (1) After consulting with the financial education public-private  
9 partnership, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
10 shall make available to all school districts a list of instructional  
11 materials that align with the financial education standards  
12 (~~integrated into the state learning standards pursuant to RCW~~  
13 ~~28A.300.460(2)(d))~~ adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

14 (2) School districts, through the end of the 2027-28 school year,  
15 shall provide all students in grades nine through (~~twelve~~) 12 the  
16 opportunity to access the financial education standards, whether  
17 through a regularly scheduled class period; before or after school;  
18 during lunch periods; at library and study time; at home; via online  
19 learning opportunities; through career and technical education course  
20 equivalencies; or other opportunities. School districts shall  
21 publicize the availability of financial education opportunities to  
22 students and their families. School districts are encouraged to grant  
23 credit toward high school graduation to students who successfully  
24 complete financial education courses.

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

27 (1)(a) Beginning in or before the 2027-28 school year, each  
28 school district that operates a high school shall provide all high  
29 school students with instruction in the state financial education  
30 learning standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

31 (b) Beginning no later than the 2027-28 school year, school  
32 districts shall publicize the offering of financial education  
33 instruction, and the associated graduation requirement, to students  
34 and their parents or legal guardians.

35 (2)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2031, each student  
36 must meet the high school state financial education learning  
37 standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469 to graduate from high school.

1 (b) Students in grade 12 who have not been able to meet the  
2 graduation requirement in (a) of this subsection (2) because of  
3 previous residence outside the state may have this requirement waived  
4 by their principal. Waivers provided in accordance with this  
5 subsection (2)(b) may only be issued on an individual basis.

6 (3)(a) The state board of education shall review and monitor  
7 financial education offerings to ensure school district compliance  
8 with the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section. The  
9 reviews and monitoring required by this subsection (3) may be  
10 conducted concurrently with other oversight and monitoring conducted  
11 by the state board of education.

12 (b) The state board of education, in accordance with RCW  
13 43.01.036, shall provide a summary of the information collected under  
14 this subsection (3) for school years 2027-28 and 2028-29 to the  
15 appropriate committees of the legislature by January 10, 2029.

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

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) By December 15, 2025, school districts  
22 shall submit to the state board of education and the financial  
23 education public-private partnership established in RCW 28A.300.450:

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

28 (b) A description of what the school district may need to ensure  
29 that students are able to meet the graduation requirement in section  
30 3 of this act.

31 (2)(a) The financial education public-private partnership shall  
32 analyze the information provided under subsection (1) of this section  
33 and create a statewide implementation plan for the graduation  
34 requirement in section 3 of this act.

35 (b) The implementation plan, which must be submitted to the  
36 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board  
37 of education, and, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the appropriate  
38 committees of the legislature by December 31, 2026, may include  
39 recommendations for:

1 (i) Additional funding for grants to integrate financial literacy  
2 education into professional development for certificated staff; and

3 (ii) Other school district resources in accordance with  
4 submissions received under subsection (1)(a) of this section.

5 (3) This section governs school operation and management under  
6 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools  
7 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education  
8 compact schools subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same extent as  
9 it applies to school districts.

10 (4) This section expires August 1, 2027.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The state board of education shall  
12 recommend adjustments to graduation requirements and other education  
13 offerings to ensure that students have adequate opportunities to meet  
14 the graduation requirement in section 3 of this act. In developing  
15 the recommendations, the state board shall:

16 (a) Consult with the financial education public-private  
17 partnership established in RCW 28A.300.450, students, parents and  
18 legal guardians, educators, K-12 education partners, postsecondary  
19 partners, employers, and community members; and

20 (b) Consider how to incorporate the graduation requirement in  
21 section 3 of this act into the framework of graduation requirements,  
22 including consideration of credit options and competency-based  
23 options.

24 (2) The state board of education shall, in accordance with RCW  
25 43.01.036, report its recommendations to the governor and the  
26 education committees of the legislature by December 31, 2026.

27 (3) This section expires August 1, 2027.

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