



MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Majority of New Mexico School Districts Now Include Financial Literacy in High School Graduation Requirements for the 2025-206 School Year

Forty-nine of New Mexico's 89 school districts, reaching over 150,000 public school students in the state, have made financial literacy a high school graduation requirement for students entering ninth grade in the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter, according to Think New Mexico (see attached). Thirty-seven of those districts require completion of a year-long financial literacy course, while 12 require at least a semester.

Think New Mexico recommended ensuring that all students receive high-quality financial literacy education since the 2020 publication of its policy report on strategies to end predatory lending.

According to the national nonprofit NextGen Personal Finance, which advocates for making financial literacy a graduation requirement, over the last five years the number of states guaranteeing all public high school students will take a financial literacy course before graduating has more than tripled from eight to 29. Today, 76% of U.S. public high school students attend schools in states with financial literacy graduation requirements.

During the 2024 legislative session, the legislature passed and Governor Lujan Grisham signed House Bill 171, revising the state's high school graduation requirements. While the total number of credits that high school students must complete remains at 24, two of those 24 credits are now designated by each school district at the local level. Since passage of the 2024 law, Think New Mexico has urged superintendents and school boards across the state to adopt financial literacy as one of those local credits through letters, emails, phone conversations and personal meetings.

Financial literacy courses teach students critically important life skills, like budgeting, saving, investing, credit scores, and the costs of borrowing. When students increase their financial literacy, studies have found that they shift from high-cost to low-cost sources of credit and student loans, and are 21% less likely to carry a balance on a credit card. The New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee reported that after financial education was mandated in the states of Georgia, Idaho and Texas, students who participated in the programs had higher credit scores and higher savings rates.

"When high school students learn personal finance, they often bring those lessons home to their parents and grandparents, benefitting the whole family," says Fred Nathan, Jr., Executive

Director of Think New Mexico. “We hope the other 40 districts will soon join the growing number of New Mexico school districts that guarantee that their students will receive a class in financial literacy before they graduate.”

In order to ensure that required financial literacy classes are high quality, NextGen Personal Finance (NGPF) offers free curriculum and professional development for financial literacy teachers, and even offers stipends for teachers to complete the training if their districts make financial literacy a graduation requirement. Think New Mexico and NGPF will be hosting a full-day professional development conference for financial literacy teachers on September 18 in Albuquerque. For more information on the conference, please contact Think New Mexico’s Education Reform Director Mandi Torrez at mandi@thinknewmexico.org.

Summary of NM School Districts and Financial Literacy Requirements for 2025-2026

	Districts who have adopted Financial Literacy for 25-26	Semester/Yearlong	Enrollment (23/24)
1	<u>Albuquerque Public Schools</u>	Semester	76099
2	<u>Belen Consolidated Schools</u>	Yearlong	3576
3	<u>Bloomfield Schools</u>	Yearlong	2503
4	<u>Capitan Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	35
5	<u>Carlsbad Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	7286
6	<u>Carrizozo Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	175
7	<u>Central Consolidated Schools</u>	Yearlong	4688
8	<u>Clayton Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	397
9	<u>Corona Public Schools</u>	Semester	81
10	<u>Cuba Independent Schools</u>	Yearlong	737
11	<u>Deming Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	5233
12	<u>Dexter Consolidated Schools</u>	Semester	805
13	<u>Elida Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	147
14	<u>Española Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	2649
15	<u>Estancia Municipal Schools</u>	Semester	574
16	<u>Farmington Municipal Schools</u>	Semester	11068
17	<u>Floyd Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	215
18	<u>Fort Sumner Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	264
19	<u>Grady Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	178
20	<u>Hagerman Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	406
21	<u>Hondo Valley Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	125
22	<u>House Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	56
23	<u>Jal Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	543
24	<u>Jemez Mountain Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	181
25	<u>Lake Arthur Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	143

26	<u>Lordsburg Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	422
27	<u>Los Alamos Public Schools</u>	Semester	3724
28	<u>Loving Public Schools</u>	Semester	656
29	<u>Lovington Schools</u>	Yearlong	3193
30	<u>Maxwell Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	102
31	<u>Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools</u>	Yearlong	257
32	<u>Mora Independent Schools</u>	Yearlong	477
33	<u>Mountainair Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	198
34	<u>Pecos Independent Schools</u>	Yearlong	453
35	<u>Peñasco Independent Schools</u>	Yearlong	270
36	<u>Questa Independent Schools</u>	Yearlong	334
37	<u>Raton Public Schools</u>	Semester	830
38	<u>Reserve Independent Schools</u>	Yearlong	88
39	<u>Roy Municipal Schools</u>	Semester	75
40	<u>Santa Fe Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	11577
41	<u>Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools</u>	Yearlong	587
42	<u>Socorro Consolidated Schools</u>	Yearlong	1363
43	<u>Taos Municipal Schools</u>	Semester	2233
44	<u>Tatum Municipal Schools</u>	Semester	310
45	<u>Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	1267
46	<u>Tucumcari Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	887
47	<u>Tularosa Municipal Schools</u>	Yearlong	965
48	<u>Wagon Mound Public Schools</u>	Semester	70
49	<u>West Las Vegas Public Schools</u>	Yearlong	1573
Total: 37 Yearlong, 12 Semester			

Total Student Population in New Mexico: 308,913

Number of Districts which require Financial Literacy as a high school graduation requirement in 2025-2026: 49

Number of Students in these Districts: 150,075

Percentage of Total Student Population in these Districts: 48.58%

