

Financial Literacy Guidance

Introduction

Completion of one-half unit (course) of Personal Financial Literacy is no longer a condition for graduation. Districts are required to offer-and-teach one-half unit (course) of Personal Financial Literacy. The one-half unit (course) may be a stand-alone course **or** the content may be integrated into units (courses) through existing coursework. Existing coursework could include science, mathematics, social studies, English or career and technical education. Iowa Code section 256.11 subsection 5.

- (1) The curriculum shall, at a minimum, address the following:
 - a. Savings, including emergency fund, purchases, and wealth building.
 - b. Understanding investments, including compound and simple interest, liquidity, diversification, risk return ratio, certificates of deposit, money market accounts, single stocks, bonds, mutual funds, rental real estate, annuities, commodities, and futures.
 - c. Wealth building and college planning, including long-term and short-term investing using tax-favored plans, individual retirement accounts and payments from such accounts, employer-sponsored retirement plans and investments, public and private educational savings accounts, and uniform gifts and transfers to minors.
 - d. Credit and debt, including credit cards, payday lending, rent-to-own transactions, debt consolidation, automobile leasing, cosigning a loan, debt avoidance, and the marketing of debt, especially to young people.
 - e. Consumer awareness of the power of marketing on buying decisions including zero percent interest offers; marketing methods, including product positioning, advertising, brand recognition, and personal selling; how to read a credit report and correct inaccuracies; how to build a credit score; how to develop a plan to deal with creditors and avoid bankruptcy; and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
 - f. Financial responsibility and money management, including creating and living on a written budget and balancing a checkbook; basic rules of successful negotiating and techniques; and personality or other traits regarding money.
 - g. Insurance, risk management, income, and career decisions, including career choices that fit personality styles and occupational goals, job search strategies, cover letters, resumes, interview techniques, payroll taxes and other income withholdings, and revenue sources for federal, state, and local governments.
 - h. Different types of insurance coverage including renters, homeowners, automobile, health, disability, long-term care, identity theft, and life insurance; term life, cash value and whole life insurance; and insurance terms such as deductible, stop loss, elimination period, replacement coverage, liability, and out-of-pocket.
 - i. Buying, selling, and renting advantages and disadvantages relating to real estate, including adjustable rate, balloon, conventional, government-backed, reverse, and seller-financed mortgages.
- (2) The one-half unit (course) may be a stand-alone course or the content may be integrated into units (courses) through existing coursework. Existing coursework could include science, mathematics, social studies, English or career and technical education. Iowa Code section 256.11 subsection 5.

Overview

What are the required standards and content?

The legislation, as noted above, includes an outline of specific topics meeting the minimum required content. As a reminder, 21st Century Skills standards for Financial Literacy are still mandated for all Iowa students K-12.

How does this impact offer and teach requirements?

The one-half unit (course) may be a stand-alone course or the content may be integrated into units (courses) through existing coursework. Existing coursework could include science, mathematics, social studies, English or career and technical education. Iowa Code section 256.11 subsection 5.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

For questions about financial literacy course content, curriculum specifications, financial literacy standards etc., contact Stefanie Wager at stefanie.wager@iowa.gov. For questions about meeting the offer and teach requirements contact your [School Improvement Consultant](#).

Which courses can be used to meet this offer and teacher requirement and who is endorsed to teach them?

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners crosswalks teacher licensure with SCED Codes (course codes). Teachers need to hold the appropriate license/endorsement for the SCED code chosen. Below is a sample of courses that could be used to meet the offer and teach requirement:

| SCED Code | SCED Course Title | Approved Endorsements |
|-----------------|--|---|
| SCED Code 02157 | Consumer Math | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Business-General• 5-12 Business-All• 5-12 Mathematics |
| SCED Code 12104 | Accounting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Business- Office• 5-12 Business- General• 5-12 Office Education (CTE)• 5-12 Business- ALL• 5-12 Accounting (CTE) |
| SCED Code 04201 | Economics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Economics• 5-12 All Social Sciences• 5-12 Business-All |
| SCED Code 04208 | Microeconomics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Economics• 5-12 All Social Sciences• 5-12 Business-All |
| SCED Code 04209 | Macroeconomics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Economics• 5-12 All Social Sciences• 5-12 Business-All |
| SCED Code 12051 | Introductory Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Business-General• 5-12 Business-All |
| SCED Code 12101 | Banking & Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Business-General• 5-12 Business-All• 5-12 Banking and Investment Occupations (CTE) |
| SCED Code 19251 | Family and Consumer Sciences-Comprehensive | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-12 Family & Consumer Sciences-General |

| SCED Code | SCED Course Title | Approved Endorsements |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| SCED Code 19262 | Consumer Economics/ Personal Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-12 Business-General • 5-12 Business-All • 5-12 Family & Consumer Sciences-General |
| SCED Code 18201 | Agribusiness Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-12 Agriculture |
| SCED Code 22900 | Iowa Financial Literacy Course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-12 Economics • 5-12 All Social Sciences • 5-12 Business-General • 5-12 Business-All • 5-12 Family & Consumer Sciences-General • 5-12 Mathematics |
| SCED Code 19257 | Life Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-12 Economics • 5-12 All Social Sciences • 5-12 Business-General • 5-12 Business-All • 5-12 Family & Consumer Sciences-General • 5-12 Mathematics |
| SCED Code 19258 | Personal and Career Readiness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-12 Economics • 5-12 All Social Sciences • 5-12 Business-General • 5-12 Business-All • 5-12 Family & Consumer Sciences-General • 5-12 Mathematics |
| SCED Code 22152 | Employability Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-12 Economics • 5-12 All Social Sciences • 5-12 Business-General • 5-12 Business-All • 5-12 Family & Consumer Sciences-General • 5-12 Mathematics |