

BY THE NUMBERS: FINANCIAL LITERACY IN U.S. SCHOOLS

86%

of U.S. high schools provide financial literacy instruction. But those lessons don't seem to be sticking with students as well as teachers might hope.

In 2021, 34% of U.S. adults described themselves as “just getting by financially,” and **60% of working adults didn't think they were saving enough for retirement.** It's pretty obvious that while most students are receiving at least some financial literacy instruction, there's still plenty of room for improvement.

Whether it's through an increase in the amount of time spent on this type of instruction, improved financial literacy resources, introducing these lessons in earlier grade levels, or some combination of all of these, we have plenty of opportunities to help students develop their financial literacy skills to become more confident, financially literate adults.

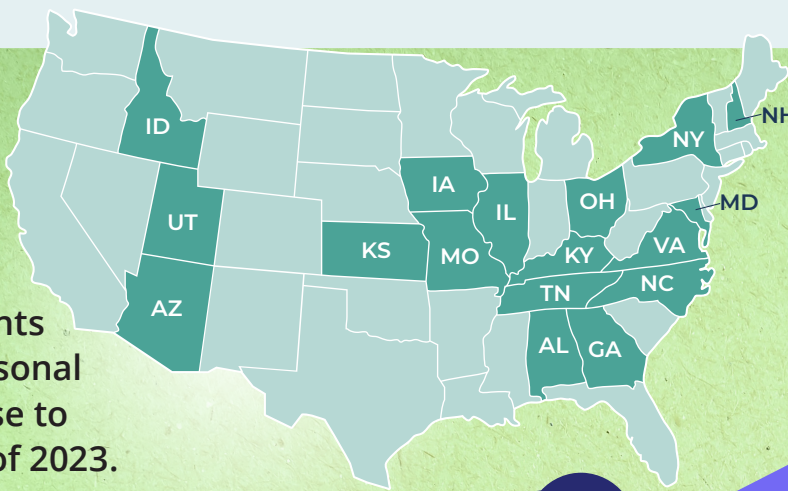


What Is Financial Literacy?

Having the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to make informed decisions regarding money.

17 U.S. states

require high school students to take a personal finance course to graduate as of 2023.



5 FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS KIDS NEED MOST:

BUDGETING

SAVING

MANAGING DEBT

INVESTING

MANAGING CREDIT

86% of U.S. high schools currently provide some sort of financial literacy instruction.

25% of high school students receive 10 hours or less of financial literacy instruction per year.

73% of teens reported wanting more financial literacy instruction in 2021.

50% of K-5 students receive no financial literacy instruction at all. Those that do receive less than 10 hours per year.



What sort of financial literacy resources are teachers looking for?

77%

Hands-on activities

66%

Online interactive resources

33%

Worksheets, videos, slideshows

7.8 On a scale of 1-10, teachers rated the importance of financial literacy instruction

“What teachers say:

“I don't have a curriculum. I do try to incorporate financial literacy as much as possible.”

— Gina M., 9th-grade Teacher

“I try to teach money management skills when discussing the topic of money in math class, but there's never a designated time to teach the skill.”

— Toni G., 11th-grade Teacher

“I try to build in some financial literacy when the scenario arises in real-world math problems.”

— Kari J., 12th-grade Teacher