



State of Wisconsin
Department of Financial Institutions

Scott Walker, **Governor**

Peter Bildsten, **Secretary**

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For Immediate Release

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**Survey Shows 44 Percent Of Wisconsin School Districts
Require Course In Personal Financial Literacy**

Madison – Forty-four percent of all Wisconsin school districts now require a course in personal financial literacy (PFL) in order to graduate from high school, according to the results of a comprehensive survey released today by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI). The survey of Wisconsin school districts also showed that of those school districts that do not require a course in PFL, 27 percent are considering adding such a requirement in the near future.

“The need to be financially literate has never been more important,” Governor Walker said. “While more than 40 percent of our school districts are requiring their students to take a PFL course in order to graduate, there is more we can do to teach all Wisconsin young people this important life skill. I encourage educators across the state to do their part to continue to integrate personal financial literacy instruction into our schools.”

The survey was initiated and funded by DFI, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). St. Norbert College Strategic Research Institute of De Pere conducted the survey. DFI is charged with providing administrative support and guidance to the Governor’s Council on Financial Literacy, which was created by Governor Walker’s Executive Order #24.

“DFI is committed to assisting the Governor’s Council fulfill its mission of measurably improving the financial knowledge of Wisconsin’s citizens, especially our K-12 students,” DFI Secretary Peter Bildsten said. “This survey provides a benchmark by which the DFI, DPI and the Council will be able to measure the results of our efforts to promote the integration of personal finance into our schools. We intend to ‘move the dial’ on this important topic.”

The survey, which included responses from 415 of Wisconsin’s 424 school districts, showed:

- 74 percent of districts include PFL content integrated within courses other than a discrete PFL course.
- 60 percent of school districts report offering PFL content at grade levels other than high school.
- In districts with a required course, 89 percent have aligned their PFL course to Wisconsin’s Model Academic Standards for Personal Financial Literacy.

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“Wisconsin led the nation in the development of rigorous standards around personal financial literacy,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “It is important that school boards and district leaders continue to expand and enhance opportunities for students to meet these standards, whether it is through a required course, robust elective options, and/or integrating this content in grade levels as young as kindergarten.”

For a copy of DFI’s Executive Summary of the survey, a copy of the full survey compiled by St. Norbert, and a list of all school districts and how they deliver personal financial literacy instruction, visit www.wdfi.org/ymm/govcouncilfinlit/.

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