



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution #10

Making A Personal Finance Course an Acceptable Alternative to Economics

Submitted by: Frontier Charter School and Ian Utic

Submitted: October 22, 2025

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- 1. Whereas,** Alaska currently does not have an alternative class for students who would rather opt out of economics;
- 2. Whereas,** in 2025 the Alaska Legislature introduced House Bill 90, an act to establish a financial literacy education program and require school districts to provide a financial literacy course ¹;
- 3. Whereas,** multiple national analyses report rapid state-level adoption of personal finance graduation policies: as of 2025, 30 states have passed legislation or regulatory changes implementing a personal finance course (definition and scope vary by state) ²;
- 4. Whereas,** among those state actions, 16 states specifically require a stand-alone personal finance course for high-school graduation (i.e., a dedicated semester or year-long course) ³;

5. Whereas, as of 2024, approximately 26.3% of U.S. public high-school students were guaranteed to take a semester-long personal finance course before graduation, with that share projected to increase as new state policies are implemented ⁴;

6. Whereas, the TIAA Institute Personal Finance Index finds that Gen Z (young adults) averages only 38% correct answers on the P-Fin Index questions, the lowest of any generation measured, indicating measurable gaps in basic financial knowledge among recent graduates and young adults ⁵;

7. Whereas, a 2025 TurboTax national survey found that 54% of 18–24-year-olds did not know the federal tax-filing deadline, demonstrating lack of basic tax knowledge among recent graduates and young adults ⁶;

8. Whereas, peer-reviewed studies and literature reviews find empirical evidence that financial education—especially well-designed, active-learning or required programs—is associated with improved financial knowledge and better outcomes (for example, improved budgeting and savings, better credit and debt outcomes, and reduced use of high-cost borrowing)⁷ ;

9. Whereas, implementing a personal finance course as an alternative option would allow students to opt out of economics while still meeting their graduation requirements;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that they support making a semester-long personal finance course a required graduation credit for ASD Schools as an option to opt out of economics, beginning with the Class of 2030.

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought before the ASD school board urging them to offer a course in personal finance as an alternative class to economics, starting with the class of 2030.

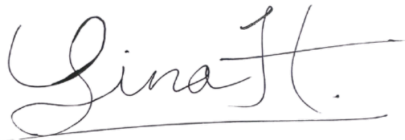
Sources:

1. Alaska State Legislature. House Bill No. 90: An Act Establishing a Financial Literacy Education Program for Public Schools. 34th Legislature, 2025.
2. Council for Economic Education. Survey of the States: Progress Report on K–12 Economic and Personal Finance Education. Council for Economic Education, 2024.
3. ExcelinEd. “Financial Literacy Education in the United States: Landscape Analysis and Next Steps.” ExcelinEd.org, 4 Mar. 2025.
4. Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF). “Number of U.S. Public High School Students Guaranteed to Take a Personal Finance Course on Track to Double to 53% by 2030.” NGPF Blog, 2025.
5. TIAA Institute. “2025 TIAA Institute–GFLEC Personal Finance Index.” TIAA Institute, 2025.
6. TIAA Institute. “Financial Literacy and Retirement Fluency in America.” TIAA Institute, 2025.

7. TurboTax Blog. “Gen Z Forgets About Tax Refunds: 54% of Gen Z Don’t Know the Tax Deadline — A TurboTax Survey.” Intuit TurboTax Blog, Intuit, 2025.

The resolution passes with noted opposition.

Passed by the Fall 2025 General Assembly of AASG

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lina H." with a horizontal line underneath.

AASG Vice President, Lina Hischer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassandra Mirosh" with a horizontal line underneath.

AASG Executive Director, Cassandra Mirosh