



For Immediate Release

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Press Conference Recap: AB 2927 (McCarty) Is Working; California Is Delivering on Commitment to Provide Personal Finance Education for Every High School Student

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ICYMI: At a virtual press conference on Friday, May 8, Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Jeff Allen, a personal finance education instructional coach in the Fresno Unified School District who was selected by the California Department of Education to help develop a statewide high school personal finance curriculum guide, joined officials from Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), a national non-profit that provides curriculum, professional development, and certification programs to teachers at no cost, to discuss ways that California is moving quickly to make financial education available to students across the state. They also highlighted grants awarded to teachers, schools, and districts to accelerate implementation of stand-alone personal finance courses.

Key points:

- The rollout of Personal Finance Education is ahead of schedule to serve California students
- The California State Board adopted a Personal Finance Curriculum Guide ahead of statutory deadline
- California teachers have logged 11,500+ hours of personal finance professional development
- Many districts are launching the course years ahead of the 2027-28 requirement

Webinar recording link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/pCEO34q4PDIBwTwhlfrlYeGhQN9XLjVxhYfyTx5vNs1hEn8sk02IC4hn18l2mMO5.Qu1RREHkeiZW-6A7>

Passcode: ayDFw5%b

Update from California Department of Education:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr26/yr26rel28.asp>

More Details:



Kevin McCarty authored Assembly Bill 2927, the law that guarantees that every California public high school student will take a stand-alone personal finance course before graduation. Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2927 into law in June 2024.

Eighteen months after Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2927, California is on track to deliver on the promise of guaranteed, high-quality personal finance education for every public high school student.

“Too many young Californians have entered adulthood without ever learning how credit works, how to read a paystub, or how compound interest can build wealth or sink a household,” said **former Assemblymember Kevin McCarty**. “We spent many months and dozens of meetings to ensure that California’s personal finance education law was built on consensus and reflected the voices of teachers, district leaders, parents, and students, and others, and above all, puts the financial well-being of every California graduate as a top priority. This policy is built on a clear standard, with a dedicated course, real curriculum, and trained teachers. It will lead to students who graduate ready to make decisions that will shape the rest of their lives.”

“California is on track to deliver on the promise of personal finance education for every public high school student, which is great news,” said **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond**. “As I’ve traveled throughout our state, I’ve seen firsthand the impact that personal finance education can have on students. These are critical life skills that will help them in their personal and professional lives. Students are learning how to save and invest and how to build long-term financial stability. We have worked quickly to provide districts with the tools they need, and educators statewide are already stepping forward to prepare students with real-world financial knowledge and skills that can change lives.”

Superintendent Thurmond noted that on May 20 the California Department of Education will host a 'Launching Your Personal Finance Course' an informative webinar for the educational leaders and teachers who are turning AB 2927 from a statute into a classroom reality. The webinar will cover statutory requirements, scheduling, curricular materials, and professional learning.

State Board of Education Adopts Curriculum Guide Ahead of Statutory Deadline

On March 18, 2026, the California State Board of Education adopted the [Personal Finance Curriculum Guide](#) developed by the Instructional Quality Commission, more than two months ahead of the May 31, 2026 statutory deadline established by AB 2927. The 217-page guide is the product of an 18-month public process and provides districts



with a comprehensive framework covering all 13 personal finance topics required by the law.

Early completion matters. Every additional week the guide is in the hands of districts is another week they can spend on planning, scheduling, teacher preparation, and curriculum alignment before the 2027-28 offering deadline.

"AB 2927 was a landmark commitment to California's students, and that commitment is being kept," said **Tim Ranzetta, Co-Founder of Next Gen Personal Finance**. "The State Board delivered the curriculum guide early. California teachers are showing up in extraordinary numbers to prepare. Districts are starting the course ahead of schedule. This is what a working law looks like."

California Teachers Are Showing Up: 662 Educators, 11,500+ Professional Development Hours, 474 Schools

California teachers are not waiting for 2027 to begin preparing. Since the start of the 2024-25 school year, 662 California public high school teachers across 474 schools have completed professional development with Next Gen Personal Finance, which is offered at no cost to districts, investing more than 11,500 hours in building their personal finance teaching capability.

That investment is being made on top of regular teaching loads, often during evenings, weekends, and summers. It reflects the level of seriousness California educators bring to this work, and the confidence they need to walk into a personal finance classroom on day one of the 2027-28 school year ready to teach.

Numerous California-specific in-person FinCamp professional development events have been well-attended by California teachers since AB 2927 was signed. Upcoming FinCamp events this summer will be hosted in San Francisco (June 11), San Diego (June 16), Los Angeles (June 18), and Sacramento (July 28).

California Challenge Grant: Districts Launching Course Years Ahead of Requirement

The NGPF California Challenge Grant is awarded to California schools and districts that introduce a standalone, one-semester personal finance course ahead of the 2027-28 statutory offering deadline. Schools that added the course in the 2025-26 school year receive \$3,500. Districts launching the course at 10 or more schools can earn up to \$35,000. Schools can use the grant to support implementation of the new course.



To date, 21 California high schools across 13 school districts have been awarded California Challenge Grants to launch a stand-alone personal finance course ahead of the 2027-28 statutory requirement. Pasadena Unified School District is among the largest, launching the course at five high schools (Blair, Muir, Pasadena, CIS, and Rose City). Yosemite Unified is launching at four (Yosemite, Evergreen, Ahwahnee, and Raymond Granite). San Luis Coastal Unified is launching at both Morro Bay High School and San Luis Obispo High School. Single-school recipients include Benicia High School, Health Sciences High and Middle College (San Diego Unified), Olympian High School (Sweetwater Union), Coast Union High School, Life Learning Academy (San Francisco Unified), Lakeside High School (Lake Elsinore Unified), John Adams Academy El Dorado Hills, Williams Jr. Sr. High School in the Williams Unified School District, Aspen Ridge Public School, and Carlsbad High School.

"Personal finance is an essential life skill, and we believe every student deserves access to it before they graduate. Elk Grove Unified introduced this course in 2021, and enrollment has grown each year, which is clear evidence that students recognize its value. Expanding personal finance education reflects our commitment to preparing graduates who are truly college-, career-, and life-ready," said Dianne Willson, Program Specialist in the Curriculum/Professional Learning Department at Elk Grove Unified School District.

"At Williams Jr. Sr. High School, we are implementing a 10th Grade Financial Literacy course in the 2026-27 school year to give all students a strong foundation for real-world financial decisions," said Nicole Day, a teacher at Williams Jr Sr High school. "Offering the course ahead of the state mandate allows us to proactively prepare students with practical financial knowledge they can apply throughout high school and beyond."

Why It Matters

AB 2927 made California the 26th state in the country to guarantee a stand-alone personal finance course for every public high school student. The economic case is clear: a 2024 study by Tyton Partners estimated a \$127,000 lifetime financial benefit per student from receiving high-quality personal finance education. Peer-reviewed research published in 2024 and 2025 confirms that stand-alone courses produce statistically significant improvements in student financial behavior, while embedded approaches do not.

California voters strongly support the law. An August 2023 David Binder Research poll found that 78% of California voters support requiring a personal finance course for high school graduation, with only 13% opposed.



"AB 2927 is working," Ranzetta said. "The State Board has done its job ahead of schedule. California teachers are doing their part. Districts are leaning in. Our job now is to make sure that every California student, in every district, gets the high-quality, stand-alone personal finance course this law promised them."

About Next Gen Personal Finance

Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) is a national non-profit committed to ensuring that every middle and high school student in the United States has access to a high-quality, stand-alone personal finance course before graduation. NGPF provides its full curriculum, professional development, and certification programs to teachers at no cost. Learn more at www.ngpf.org.

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