CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DEPARTMENT OF
STUDENT VOICE & ENGAGEMENT

Implementation Guidance: Financial Education (Formerly Consumer Ed) Graduation Requirement
Latest Update: May 2025

OVERVIEW

This document covers best practices for implementing the Financial Education Graduation policy (fka Consumer Education[1]) which requires students to receive a 9-week unit of study in financial education.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE and REQUIREMENTS

- **Time-Bound:** A unit of study in financial education is at least 9-continuous weeks of sequential lessons (45 min/day or equivalent in block or other atypical bell schedules).
- **Content:** A unit of study in financial education covers each of the Seven Content Topics of Financial Education: Economic Concepts, Money Management, Banking, Credit, Insurance, Investing and Consumer Protection. The only curricular resource that satisfies all these content requirements is our own CPS Empowered!.
- **Courses:** The unit of study **can be taught as a stand-alone course** (one semester or full year) **OR be integrated** into any of the following subject areas/programs: Social Science, Math, Senior or Junior Seminar courses, Mathematics, Career and Technical Education (Business), Physical Education/JROTC, or any other existing or elective course(s).[2]
- **Teacher Licensure Requirements:** Any 9-12 Educator license can be assigned the Financial Education requirement. Training is required for staff new to delivering this requirement.
- **Grading/Marking Completion:** Teachers must enter **P** (pass) or **F** (incomplete) during grade entry for students' requirement to be marked as met on transcripts. Additional information available through Programming Guidance. Schools are required to maintain evidence of completion. For more information, join our training.

IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

Here are resources that can support your school team in ensuring your all students meet the graduation requirement:

- **Financial Education Curriculum** - In 2018, the district created the *Empowered!* curriculum, which may be used by teachers for the 9 week unit. This additional crosswalk document is constantly updated and can assist in incorporating additional external resources.

- **Financial Education Partners:** Access the FinEd Community Partners page on our website to connect with external organizations that offer curricular resources to enrich the CPS unit of study.

- **HS Scheduling Site:** Please refer to the following guides: HS Master Schedule Building in Follett Aspen Phase 1 User Guide and HS Master Schedule Building in Follett Aspen Phase 2 User Guide. In addition, please also reference the updated FinEd programming guidance document here, which includes new FinEd codes for SY22-23.

- **Teacher Training:** Click to open our Training Schedule for both training to launch and track your FinEd unit (3-hours) and 1-hour after school training on specific topics.
    - For an asynchronous webinar training, Use Course Code: 61301 and Class Code 113362

[1] IL State Law still refers to this requirement as "Consumer Education" and mandates this unit of study. We have branded this as "Financial Education" inside CPS since 2017.
[2] The 9-week FinEd Requirement cannot be simultaneously met with other time-bound requirements. For example, A full year civics course can integrate FinEd for 1 quarter, but a single semester Civics course cannot.

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- To be made aware of special trainings or partners' training join our FinEducator Google Classroom
- Contact dkvoss@cps.edu for additional specialized training options.

***DIGITAL OPTION EXCEPTION:** In case of situations where a high school senior cannot be programmed into a course that can fit the requirement because they transferred into the school without the FinEd credit or because they failed the unit in a previous course, please email dkvoss@cps.edu for support.