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education graduation requirements and which key topics should be taught in schools.

Apr. 27, 2022



A new poll from the [National Endowment for Financial Education \(NEFE\)](#) on the topic of course offering requirements and opportunities to learn about financial education in high school identifies what adults wish they had access to when they were students and what they believe is important for existing students.

The poll's theme corresponds with Financial Capability Month (also known as Financial Literacy Month), held each April to promote the need for all Americans to have access to effective financial education.

“It is appropriate that these data are being released during Financial Capability

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to get a part of training in all schools.

In March, NEFE and [AmeriSpeak](#) surveyed U.S. adults on high school financial education graduation requirements and which key topics should be taught in schools. High-level results from this polling include:

- 88% said their state should require a semester- or year-long financial education course for graduation.
- 80% said they wish they were required to take a semester- or year-long financial education course during high school.
- 75% said that spending and budgeting is the most important financial education topic to teach for personal finance education, followed by managing credit (55%), saving (49%) and earning income (47%¹).

A demographic breakdown of the data includes these highlights:

- The older cohorts (ages 45-59 and ages 60+) were significantly more likely than the youngest aged cohort (ages 18-29) to say their state should mandate financial education for high school graduation (18-29 y/o: 79%; 45-59 y/o: 93%; 60+ y/o: 92%).
- Adults with a postsecondary degree were significantly more likely to say their state should mandate financial education than adults with no high school diploma (91% vs. 71%).
- Men and women were similarly likely to indicate that their state should mandate financial education and wished they were required to complete a semester- or year-long course focused on personal finance education during high school.
- Adults with a household income under \$30,000 (73%) were less likely than the highest earning income groups (84% to 85%)² to say they wished they were required to complete a semester- or year-long course focused on personal finance education during high school.

- Non-Hispanic Whites (84%) were more likely than non-Hispanic Blacks (73%)

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understanding the nuance across foundational factors such as culture and socioeconomic differences. The newest version of the [Personal Finance Ecosystem](#) is one of the first projects announced by the NEFE Institute, an arm of NEFE that advances high-impact, scholarly research and facilitates collaboration with practitioners, advocates and policymakers.

For a more detailed account of the overall results and demographic differences of this poll, [see the full summary report](#). For more information on NEFE consumer polls, [click here](#).

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