

# *Summary of Financial Education Standards Changes*

The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for Financial Education have been revised to include updates to content, provide clarity in the standards language, and include prioritized standards to reflect the universal learning that should be the foundation for every learner in our K–12 system. By identifying prioritized standards, we can ensure educational equity across the state. In every classroom and learning experience, all students will have access to develop proficiency/competency on the same learning standards as part of instruction, interventions, and supports.

The standards' revisions and updates are based on the current National Standards for Personal Financial Education published by the Jump\$tart Coalition and the Council for Economic Education. The standards will be accompanied by supporting documents upon their official adoption, including clarification documents and support for implementation. Professional learning for educators will be provided through partnerships to support the implementation of the updated learning standards.

The draft Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for Financial Education document provides an enhanced framework, emphasizing application over memorization and integrates previous standards with new content. Based on educator feedback, standards at 6–12 grade levels are now grade banded (6–8, 9–12), consistent with national standards. This allows teachers, schools, and districts additional degrees of freedom to design classes that best meet the needs of their students.

The draft standards have been carefully constructed to mirror the updated national standards while integrating suggested changes by local educators, administrators, and the public. By doing so, we have made it easier for adopters to review financial instructional materials that are aligned with national standards. The banding recommendations of middle and high school specialists were different than the advice of elementary educators who requested grade-level standards. We translated the banded national elementary standards into individual grade-level standards for the elementary grades with a focus on age-appropriate pedagogy. As a result, the draft elementary standards look very different from the national standards, but their roots are firmly planted in the national standards.

Subject areas (domains) have been refined. The Spending and Savings area has been broken into two domains: Spending and Saving. The Financial Decision-Making standards have been integrated into each of the domains, emphasizing their role in all areas of financial education. These changes were made while simultaneously attempting to make the standards more manageable by increasing the focus on a smaller number of standards.

