



Vermont

FINANCIAL EDUCATION POLICY BRIEF



WHY GUARANTEE A PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS?

- 1. Surging momentum.** The number of states guaranteeing all high school students take a stand-alone personal finance course has grown from 8 states in 2020 to 17 states today.
- 2. Urgent need.** Buy-now-pay-later, cryptocurrency speculation, and game-like investing apps are the latest 21st century trends targeting youth. Financial education empowers youth with critical thinking skills, and significantly improves long-term financial behaviors.
- 3. Strong public demand.** An early 2023 poll demonstrates that 83% of Vermonters think all high school students should be guaranteed to take a basic course in personal finance covering topics like investing, budgeting, taxes, and saving.



SOLUTIONS

- **Respect local control.** Flexible approach keeps decision-making local, including districts choosing curriculum, who teaches the course and where it fits in existing graduation requirements.
- **Implement course at little to no cost.** NGPF Mission 2030 Fund's affiliated non-profit, Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), provides free curriculum and professional development and receives **no financial benefit from this legislation**. Strong teacher training with 3 grad credits offered to teachers at no cost via Champlain College Center for Financial Literacy.
- **Receives strong bi-partisan support.** New personal finance guarantees have been celebrated by Governors of both major parties including most recently Gov. Whitmer in Michigan, Gov. Sununu in New Hampshire and Gov. DeSantis in Florida.

NGPF
IMPACT IN
VERMONT
TO DATE



500+

Teachers use
NGPF Curriculum

145+

Teachers with
NGPF PD Hours

3,855+

Total hours of
NGPF PD



Affiliated with **Next Gen Personal Finance (“NGPF”)**, the #1 non-profit provider of personal finance curriculum and professional development in the United States.

75% of U.S. personal finance students are taught by teachers using NGPF curriculum;
90% of personal finance teachers who participate in PD access it through NGPF.

NGPF is an endowment-funded program. It is free, and always will be.





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WHY GUARANTEE A PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS?

- **Currently 13% of Vermont high school students are guaranteed** to take a personal finance course of at least one semester prior to graduation, and an additional 39% of high school students have access to the course as an elective.
- Together, let's build on this foundation in 2023 by ensuring all Vermont high schoolers build the financial skills needed to thrive in our modern economy.

CURRENT FINANCIAL EDUCATION ACCESS IN VERMONT

2,220

Students with a **guaranteed** personal finance course

9,318

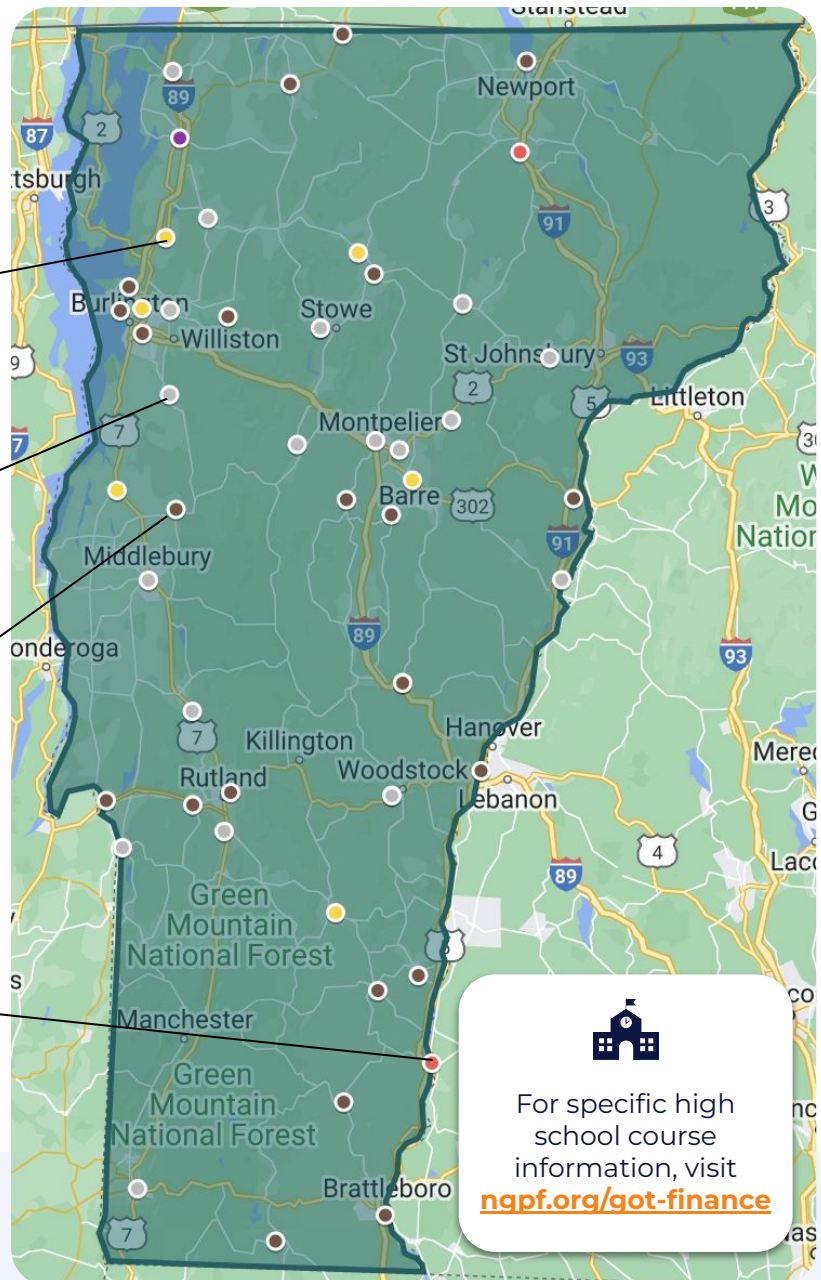
Students with an **elective** personal finance course

10,725

Students with **embedded** personal finance instruction

672

Students with **no** personal finance offerings



Source: 2022 NGPF State of Financial Education Report in collaboration with Montana State University