Survey of Personal Finance in Connecticut High Schools
2015

Christopher M. Lee, CFP®
President, Connecticut Jump$tart
What we did....

- We surveyed the approximately 136 public high school districts in the state

- What did we ask them?
  - Is a Personal Finance class offered in the curriculum?
    - If so, which department teaches it?
  - Is a Personal Finance class required for graduation?
Results

- 7% of the school districts surveyed have a **graduation requirement** to take a personal finance course.

- 10% of the school districts surveyed do not **even offer a course** in personal finance.

- 90% of the school districts surveyed **offer a personal finance class as an elective** (7% of that number is mandated).
Results

- Of the currently 170,000 students enrolled in CT public high schools\(^1\) today then:
  - 158,000 will **not** be required to learn about Personal Finance
  - 12,000 will be mandated to take Personal Finance
  - 24,500 students will take Personal Finance as an elective
  - At least 133,000 (or 78%) will not take a personal finance class

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\(^1\) Source: [http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/connecticut](http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/connecticut)
What Department is teaching it?

- Business: 93%
- Business/Math: 2%
- Career & Technical: 2%
- Mathematics: 3%
What the educators are saying...

- We had 240 students sign up for 60 slots of personal finance offered.
- Would love to see it mandated for seniors.
- Will offer for first time, not sure if will be math or business credit class.
- We have 4 levels of personal finance offered.
- Love to make it a requirement.
- Would love to see it mandated.
Which districts have classes mandated (or phased in by 2018)?

- CHESHIRE
- GRANBY
- GROTON
- MIDDLETOWN
- MONTVILLE
- NEW FAIRFIELD
- NO STONINGTON
- SEYMOUR
- SIMSBURY
- STRATFORD
The path ahead

- Which departments will be teaching the class?
- Who will be teaching the class?
- How much does it cost to add a class?
- Should it be decided on the local level versus a statewide mandate?
- Funded mandate vs. Unfunded mandate?