



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### CONTACT

Dan Hebert

NH Jump\$Tart Coalition

Tel: 603-731-1812

Email: [dhebert@nhjumpstart.org](mailto:dhebert@nhjumpstart.org)

### **NH Jump\$Tart Coalition Announces Progress in Financial Literacy Education in New Hampshire High Schools Since 2013; More Progress to be Made**

*62% of NH public high schools offer personal finance courses; 12% require students to pass a standalone course in personal finance to graduate*

**MANCHESTER, NH (March 7, 2018)** – The [NH Jump\\$Tart Coalition](#) announced New Hampshire high schools are making positive strides toward providing more opportunities for students to learn and understand personal finance. The NH Jump\$Tart Coalition, an all-volunteer non-profit organization that strives to prepare youth for life-long, successful financial decision making, recently completed a study of personal finance curriculum and graduation requirements of all 78 public high schools in New Hampshire. While the study reveals progress, many schools still do not require students to pass a class in personal finance to graduate.

The mission of the NH Jump\$Tart Coalition is to improve the financial literacy of pre-kindergarten through college-age youth by providing advocacy, research, activities, standards and educational resources. The organization conducted its first study of New Hampshire public high school curriculum in 2013, and this recent study was completed in early 2018. [Click here](#) to read the study.

The organization evaluated the economics curricula and graduation requirements to determine how schools measure up to the New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks Standard SS:EC:6, which specifies that [in order to graduate high school] students must be able to explain the importance of money management, spending, credit, saving and investing in a free-market economy.

“We are encouraged by the progress being made in our schools, and we believe New Hampshire can take a leadership role in educating students on managing money,” said Dan Hebert, president, NH Jump\$Tart Coalition. “We have students who want to learn, educators prepared to teach them, and

resources available, but it starts at home. We urge parents to take an interest in modeling and teaching financial responsibility at home and advocating for financial education in their school districts.”

Key findings from the 2017 study include:

-62% of New Hampshire public high schools clearly offer a personal finance course as an elective, in addition to meeting the state requirement for economics;

-14% of New Hampshire public high schools clearly require economics only;

-12% of New Hampshire public high schools clearly require a standalone course in personal finance for graduation.

In 2013, only three public high schools in New Hampshire met the state minimum requirement in economics and required students to pass a half-credit class in personal finance to graduate. The 2017 study revealed an improvement with nine public high schools now requiring students to pass a course in personal finance to graduate. These schools will be recognized with commendations from the New Hampshire Executive Council in a ceremony at the State House on March 21<sup>st</sup>; they are:

Bedford High School

Bow High School

Colebrook Academy

Hinsdale High School

John Stark Regional High School

Newfound Regional High School

Pelham High School

Profile High School

Stevens High School

“A basic understanding of personal finance is crucial to success in life,” said Gerald H. Little, bank commissioner, New Hampshire Banking Department. “By helping local teachers and parents start the conversation, the NH Jump\$tart Coalition fuels the next generation of economic success in New Hampshire.”

“With the ever-growing use of technology in personal financial management, it is more essential than ever that our students are grounded not only with strong fundamental financial skills, but also an increasing level of sophistication and vigilance when it comes to managing their financial lives online,” said Bill Dwyer, treasurer, State of New Hampshire. “There appears to be no limit to the deceptiveness that occurs, and equipping young people with knowledge and skills to protect themselves is critical.”

NH Jump\$tart Coalition conducted its recent study with the assistance of Nia Manjunath of Pelham, NH, who is a senior at Pelham High School.

For more information about the NH Jump\$tart Coalition and to access the full 2017 Report on New Hampshire Public High Schools, visit [www.nhjumpstart.org](http://www.nhjumpstart.org).

**About NH Jump\$tart Coalition:**

Officially organized in 2000, NH Jump\$tart is a statewide, all volunteer, nonprofit association dedicated to improving the personal financial literacy of children in the Granite State. We are also a proud state affiliate of the National Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. The National Jump\$tart Coalition, based in Washington, D.C., was first convened in 1995 and consists of over 200 organizations committed to improving the financial literacy of America's youth.

###