

<p><b>Subject:</b>  <b>Personal Finance Literacy</b></p> <p><b>Date issued: September 29, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Legal Reference – HB 1263 (2021-2022 Legislative Session)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RSA 189:10 Studies</b></li> </ul>
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*This Technical Advisory continues the New Hampshire Department of Education’s communication regarding new legislation, which was passed during the 2021-2022 legislative session. HB 1263 amends RSA 189:10, which pertains to certain academic studies which are required of all public schools.*

During the 2021-2022 legislative session, HB 1263 was passed into law, which amends the pre-existing RSA 189:10, which required that the school board ensure that health education and physical education are “thoroughly” taught as part of the basic curriculum, with a particular emphasis on certain sub-topics such as physiology, hygiene, and health and physical education. HB 1263, made slight modifications to these pre-existing requirements and added personal finance literacy as a new area of instruction.

Specifically, under the newly amended law, school boards must ensure that the following subjects are taught as part of the curriculum:

- Health education;
- Physical education, to include the importance of exercise;
- Wellness to include physiology, hygiene, health, and interpersonal relationships, physical education, and wellness as they relate to the effects of alcohol and other drugs, prevention of sexual violence, child abuse as defined in RSA 169-C:3, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases on the human system, and;
- Personal finance literacy.

As stated above, the first three areas enumerated above were largely covered under the old version of RSA 189:10. The significant change to the law pursuant to HB 1263 is the addition of personal finance literacy instruction which must be designed to prepare students for success in making financial decisions. HB 1263 became effective **July 26, 2022** and is applicable to the 2022-2023 academic school year. However, it is important to note that personal finance literacy instruction may be embedded into a pre-existing course or grade level program of studies.

It is worth noting that HB 1671, which is relative to the content of an adequate education, amends RSA 193-E:2-a, and adds personal finance literacy as a new learning area of that provision. However, that specific requirement does not become effective until the 2023-2024 academic school year. The Department will be undertaking rulemaking to amend Ed 306—Minimum Standards—to reflect all the changes that HB 1671 implements. That rulemaking process will provide more detail on what personal finance literacy should encompass as a course of instruction.

As such, there exists an inherent “gap” between the requirement of HB 1263—that personal finance literacy is to be taught as a standalone course of study or integrated during the current 2022-2023 academic year and HB 1671 which makes the new instruction area as a standalone course of study applicable to the following year. As such, schools districts should anticipate that there might be some necessary adjustment from how the personal finance literacy course requirement is fulfilled between the current academic year and the subsequent academic year.

Finally, the Department of Education must survey school districts on a biennial basis to receive reports on compliance with this law. This requirement existed prior to the amendment and pursuant to HB 1263, the survey will now include personal finance literacy.

[HB 1263](#) became effective *July 26, 2022*.

**For questions related to this Technical Advisory, please contact:**

Dr. Nate Greene  
Bureau Administrator, Educational Opportunities  
Tel: 603-271-5252  
Email: [Nathaniel.T.Greene@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Nathaniel.T.Greene@doe.nh.gov)