



BILL: Senate Bill 236  
TITLE: State Board of Education – Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Curriculum -  
Development and Implementation  
DATE: January 31, 2018  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
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Senate Bill 236 requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester-long high school elective course in financial literacy and entrepreneurship; and authorizing each county board of education to implement the curriculum content beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 236.

Today, more than ever, graduates must be financially literate in order to be prepared for college, careers, and responsible living. Maryland public schools strongly support financial literacy. This is why Maryland has acted to ensure that all students have a strong foundation in financial education to make informed decisions and accomplish their goals. In fact, financial literacy education is already a requirement in all Maryland public schools.

Maryland is preparing students to be financially literate by implementing Personal Financial Literacy Education Standards in grades 3-12 in every public school; meeting regularly with the Financial Literacy Education Council to support local school system implementation activities; requiring local school systems to provide a program of instruction in financial literacy education for all students in grades 3-12; partnering with financial institutions and other organizations to provide ongoing professional development for teachers; and establishing public and private partnerships to fund financial literacy initiatives in local schools.

PSSAM appreciates the intent of this legislation, but strongly believes it is not necessary. Local schools must retain the right and responsibility to choose the curriculum content that best meets the needs of our students.

Therefore, PSSAM respectfully **opposes** Senate Bill 236 and urges an unfavorable committee report.