

## Personal Financial Literacy High School Elective

### Frequently Asked Questions

August 2016

#### **1. What is the new Personal Financial Literacy (PFL) course?**

The Personal Financial Literacy course is a new one-half credit high school elective course, developed in response to [TEC, §28.0021](#), which requires each school district and each open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program to provide this specific course in personal financial literacy as a high school elective.

#### **2. When did the requirement to provide this high school elective go into effect?**

August 22, 2016, is the effective date for the State Board of Education rule action adopting New 19 TAC Chapter 113, [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, High School, §113.49, Personal Financial Literacy \(One-Half Credit\), Adopted 2016](#).

#### **3. Does this Personal Financial Literacy course need to be offered to students in the 2016-2017 school year?**

Yes, starting with the 2016-2017 school year, each school district and each open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program must provide this Personal Financial Literacy elective course.

#### **4. Is the new PFL course required for high school graduation?**

No, the course is not a graduation requirement. School districts and open-enrollment charter schools must provide the course as a high school elective, but students are not required to take and complete the course for graduation.

#### **5. Can the new PFL course be applied toward the requirements of an endorsement?**

Yes, the Personal Financial Literacy course is a social studies elective and can therefore be used for earning an Arts and Humanities endorsement or a Multi-Disciplinary Studies endorsement.

#### **6. Can this PFL course be embedded in another course, similar to the way instruction of required speech skills can now be covered in English language arts classes, or does it have to be offered as a stand-alone half-credit course?**

[TEC, §28.0021](#) requires each school district and each open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program to provide this specific course in personal financial literacy as a high school elective.

**7. Can other courses that include some personal financial literacy content, such as economics and CTE courses, satisfy the PFL high school elective requirement?**

No, other economics and/or CTE courses that include some personal financial literacy content do not satisfy the requirements of TEC, §28.0021.

**8. Does this new PFL elective course replace or substitute for the required Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits?**

No, the new PFL elective course is not replacing any course. Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits remains a required course for high school graduation. The PFL elective course cannot substitute for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits.

**9. Where can I find the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the PFL course?**

The TEKS for the PFL course are in 19 TAC Chapter 113. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, [§113.49. Personal Financial Literacy \(One-Half Credit\), Adopted 2016](#).

**10. What is the PEIMS code for the new PFL elective course?**

The PEIMS code for Personal Financial Literacy is 03380082.

**11. What teacher certification is required for the PFL course?**

The State Board of Education (SBOE) is expected to finalize the teacher certification rules for the new PFL course at the Board's September 2016 meeting.

**12. Were PFL instructional materials reviewed as part of Proclamation 2017?**

No, Proclamation 2017 does not include Personal Financial Literacy. The SBOE is tentatively scheduled to call for personal financial literacy instructional materials as part of Proclamation 2018. If that occurs, state adoption would be in autumn 2017, materials would be ordered in spring 2018, and implementation would be in the 2018-2019 school year.

**13. Does the new PFL course have to be offered annually?**

No, the course, like other required courses, does not have to be offered annually. [19 TAC §74.3\(b\)\(4\)](#), states: “If the school district will not offer the required courses every year, but intends to offer particular courses only every other year, it must notify all enrolled students of that fact.”

**14. Are there any dispensations or waivers to postpone offering the course, or must it start with the 2016-2017 school year?**

There are currently no dispensations or waivers. However, the rules regarding the required curriculum provide for flexibility in selection of both instructional materials and instructional methodology. For example, [Texas Education Code §28.0021\(b\)](#) states that a school district or open-enrollment charter school may use an existing state, federal, private, or nonprofit program that provides students without charge the instruction described under this section.