



Anthony Soto, Superintendent/Receiver

To: Holyoke City Council Members
Re: Agenda Item 15: Financial Literacy Course
Date: Friday, January 14, 2022

This memo is in response to Agenda Item 15, requested by Councillor Kevin Jourdain: “That the School Receiver Mr. Soto and his team be requested to develop a formal financial literacy curriculum for the schools as a measure to increase financial literacy of students and to end the cycle of poverty in the city.”

Please be advised that Holyoke Public Schools does have a formal financial literacy curriculum in place at the high school level. The course is offered as a two-semester elective for students at both Holyoke High School North and Dean Campus. Each 20-week semester course provides 2.5 credits of college-prep GPA weight instruction. This course has been in place for a number of years. At one time, the course was called Consumer Math, but in 2011 it was changed to Financial Literacy. The curriculum has been revised over the years. HPS is now teaching financial literacy through the [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) platform, which offers a customizable curriculum that is aligned with Massachusetts Learning Standards.

Holyoke High School’s Financial Literacy course description is as follows:

This course covers topics of application-based mathematics relevant to the financial structures of our modern-day economy. Major topics of study include earning, debiting, saving, budgeting, purchasing, and all variations of loans, insurances, mortgages, taxes, investments, and retirement. The course provides work-based learning experiences including opening checking and savings accounts and finance professionals as guest speakers. The course requires individual work expectations including daily homework, individual performance tasks, and projects.

I trust this response will address the request by Councillor Jourdain. If you need further information, please let me know.

Thank you,

Anthony Soto
Receiver/Superintendent