



March 2, 2026

Maryland Senate Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Support for Senate Bill 0592 – Personal Finance Graduation Requirement

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE), I respectfully urge you to issue a **favorable report on Senate Bill 0592**, which would require all Maryland public school systems to ensure that students complete a personal finance course as a condition of graduation.

Today, access to this essential education depends largely on a student's zip code. Ten Maryland school systems currently require students to complete a standalone personal finance course. An eleventh—Baltimore County—requires all students to complete either Economics or a combined Personal Finance and Economics course as part of its social studies requirements. However, in many other districts, students are not guaranteed access to this learning. In some systems where the course is not required, including Baltimore City, a personal finance elective is often not available at all.

While local control remains an important principle, the current approach has resulted in inequitable access. A student's address should not determine whether they learn how to budget, build credit, manage debt, save for college, or begin investing for long-term wealth. Making personal finance a graduation requirement ensures universal access and closes opportunity gaps across communities.

A growing body of academic research demonstrates that students who complete a high school personal finance course experience measurable long-term benefits. Studies have linked course requirements to higher credit scores, lower delinquency rates, improved borrowing behaviors, and increased participation in retirement savings plans. These outcomes contribute directly to

economic mobility and financial stability, goals that align with Maryland's commitment to strengthening families and communities statewide.

The fiscal note for Senate Bill 0592 references potential costs associated with professional development and curriculum. The Maryland Council on Economic Education is uniquely positioned to help mitigate those concerns. We currently work with all 24 Maryland school systems to provide high-quality teacher professional development, curriculum consultation, and classroom resources at no cost to districts, made possible through support from the State of Maryland, the business community, and philanthropic partners for more than 70 years.

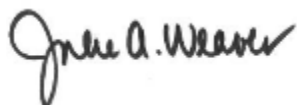
We are presently assisting Anne Arundel County Public Schools in implementing its newly enacted personal finance requirement and stand ready to provide similar support statewide. We work to ensure that each district can integrate personal finance and economics in ways that reflect the needs of their students and communities. Should Senate Bill 0592 be enacted, we are fully prepared to help train teachers and support effective implementation.

Ensuring that every Maryland graduate possesses foundational financial knowledge is not simply an educational issue, it is an economic mobility issue. Senate Bill 0592 guarantees access to critical life skills that empower students to build stable and prosperous futures.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 0592.

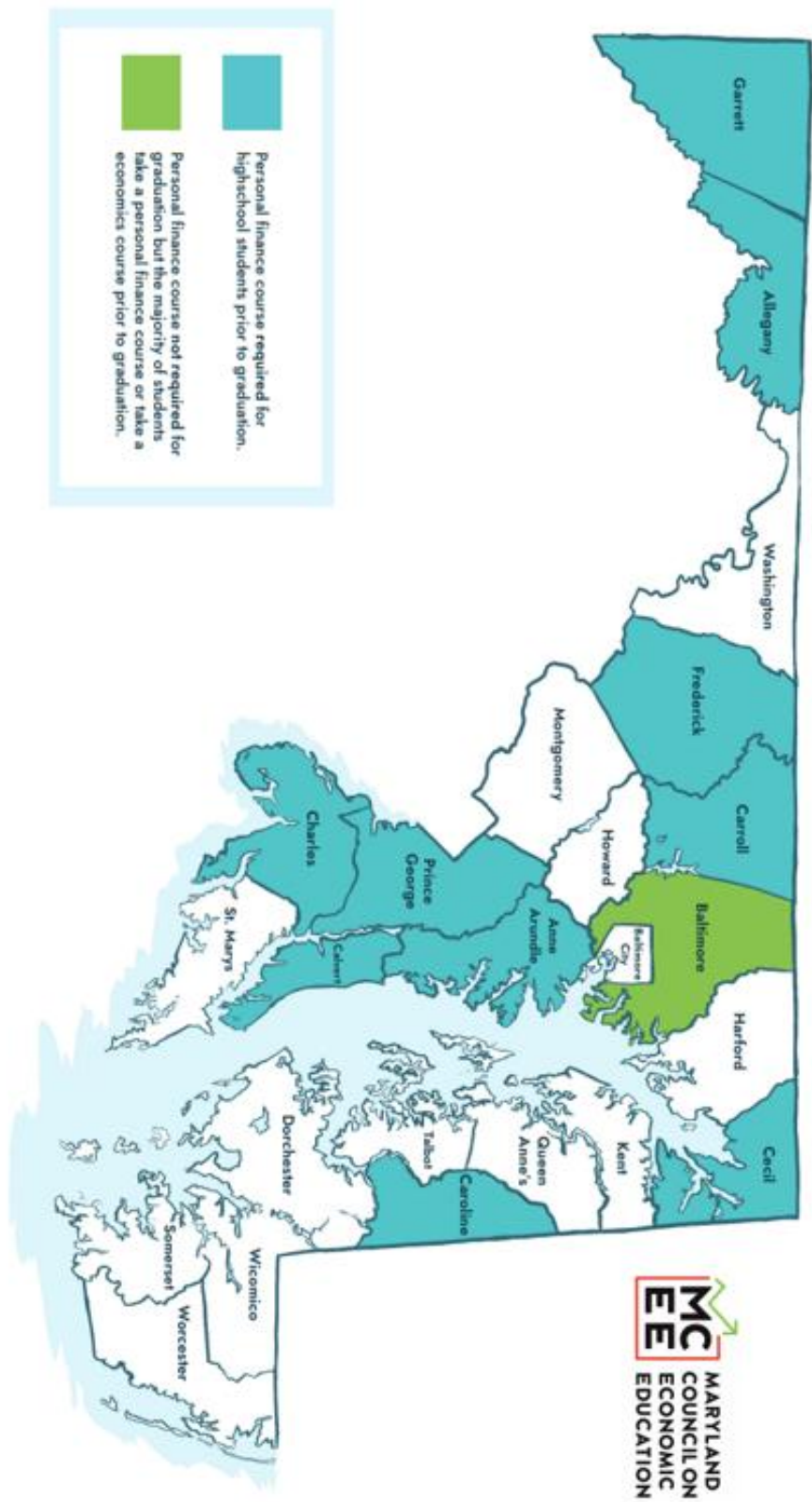
Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in advancing educational opportunity for all Maryland students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie A. Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie A Weaver
Executive Director
Maryland Council on Economic Education

Maryland School Systems with a Required Semester-Long Personal Finance Graduation Course



Supporting Financial Education in MD K-12 Schools



**MARYLAND
COUNCIL ON
ECONOMIC
EDUCATION**



We Educate Educators

Teachers can't teach what they don't know. For more than 70 years, MCEE has provided professional development workshops and courses for educators to improve instruction of personal finance and economics in Maryland K-12 schools.



We Offer Classroom Resources

MCEE creates and curates topic based classroom resources from a wide range of free sources. These include lesson plans, videos, games, and activities to help teachers share important concepts with students.



We Offer Hands-On Learning

Our goal is to help students learn how to create, manage, and protect wealth through offering hands-on student learning opportunities. This includes the Stock Market Game Experience, the Personal Finance Challenge, the Economics Challenge, and an annual Poster Contest. These programs immerse students in learning concepts through months of exposure, not days, that create long-term behavioral change.

Our Mission:

To equip preK-12 educators with tools and resources to build their students' financial capability and economic understanding, creating financially empowered Marylanders.

OUR IMPACT

2024 - 2025

2,343

Teachers Reached

236,963

Students Reached

50%

of Students Economically Disadvantaged

19,861

Student Participants in the Stock Market Game

**Support our Work to Bring
Financial and Economic
Literacy to Maryland Youth**

www.econed.org/donate

Contact Us to Learn More:



410-704-2137



mcee@towson.edu



www.econed.org