

Practical Money Skills

 **for Life**™

Survey: Personal Finance Course Should
be a High School Graduation Requirement



82% of Americans Surveyed Agree: A Course in Personal Finance Should be a High School Graduation Requirement

Parents Particularly See the Need for Financial Education in School

April is financial literacy month and a new Visa Inc. survey conducted last week finds that 82% of Americans surveyed think a course in personal finance should be a high school graduation requirement. However, only four states currently have that requirement in place.

Parents, in particular, are clamoring for their children to learn about money management in school. The survey found that 85% of parents said they want a course in personal finance to be a high school graduation requirement.

Additionally, 76% of younger people (18-24 years old) think that the course should be required while 83% of those 25-34 years of age agree. An overwhelming 85% of consumers between the ages of 35 and 49 see the importance as well and 84% of people 50-64 years of age draw the same conclusion.

Interestingly, the wealthier the respondents were, the more they supported the learning of money management:

- 81% of those making \$20,000-\$29,999 think a personal finance course should be a high school graduation requirement
- 80% of those making \$30,000-\$39,999 agree
- 88% of those making \$40,000-\$49,999 also agree
- 86% of those making \$50,000+ feel the same

“The results are overwhelming,” said Jason Alderman, Visa’s senior director of financial education. “Based on the survey data, American consumers are rightly demanding that financial literacy be taught in our schools.”

To help encourage the importance of learning personal finance skills early in life, Visa offers to consumers its free, award-winning financial education program - *Practical Money Skills for Life* (www.practicalmoneyskills.com). The program reaches millions of people, of all ages, around the world each year. Launched in 1995, the program is now available in ten languages in more than thirty countries. At *Practical Money Skills for Life*, educators, parents and students can access free educational resources including personal finance articles, games, lesson plans, and more.

About the Personal Finance Course Should be a High School Graduation Requirement Survey

The survey results are based on 1,000 telephone interviews conducted nationally from March 25 - 28, 2011 in cooperation with GfK Roper OmniTel.