



Financial Education

Public-Private Partnership

Setting the Washington Agenda for Financial Education

Aberdeen School District Demonstration Project

The first Financial Education Public-Private Partnership (FEPPP) school district demonstration project took place in Aberdeen, WA. Educators from around Washington State met in Aberdeen during August 25-26, 2010, for a teach-the-teacher-style training designed to aid the local school district in its effort to implement personal finance and financial education components across its curriculum and in all grades K-12. After the training the Aberdeen teachers were able to take what they learned and teach other educators in the district so they may implement similar curriculum in their classrooms.

The training was the first step in FEPPP's legislative charge to partner with local school districts in order to make comprehensive financial education available to all K-12 students in Washington. All trainers were current and former educators with specific specialties. They introduced Aberdeen teachers to a personal finance curriculum, and showed them how to incorporate it into their existing lesson plans.

"We are very happy that (Aberdeen School District) Superintendent Thomas Opstad, as well as the local school principals and educators see financial education as an important component of public education," says FEPPP Chairman and State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos. "The Aberdeen School District has been a leader in working with community organizations, including NeighborWorks of Grays Harbor County, to deliver this type of education to its students. We applaud its efforts."

"Teachers face tremendous challenges," says FEPPP Vice-Chairman Pam Whalley of the Washington Council of Economic Education "With this training FEPPP will reinforce what teachers are currently teaching and what students are currently learning with a personal finance and financial education curriculum."

According to Whalley, this means that whether someone is teaching French, art, social studies, math or science, they will receive all the tools to not only introduce financial education in their classroom, but will have the skills needed to show other teachers how to implement similar curriculum in their classrooms.

"It's an each-one teach-one approach that will provide a two-way conversation about how to best educate the student," added Whalley.

Washington's Financial Education Public-Private Partnership (FEPPP) is the result of legislative action and is charged with bringing together individuals from both the public and private sector in an effort to provide quality financial education for students in the public school system. As an organization, it identifies strategies to increase the financial education of students; provides quality financial education information for school districts, and financial education instructional materials and professional development. Details can be found at www.fePPP.org.