

## MONEY TALKS: INTEGRATING FINANCIAL LITERACY IN THE PHILIPPINE SECONDARY CURRICULUM

*by:*

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Teaching financial literacy in Philippine high schools is more than just a good idea – it’s a necessity (Nicolas, 2024). In today’s fast-changing economy and with the advent of digital transactions, young people need to understand how money works to secure a better future. By incorporating financial literacy into the curriculum, students can gain valuable life skills that will prepare them for the real world. From managing a personal budget to making smart investment decisions, financial education can open doors to better opportunities and reduce financial stress later in life.

### Smart money habits

One of the biggest benefits of financial education is that students develop smart money habits early on. Many young people don’t learn how to manage money until adulthood, often through trial and error. By integrating financial education into secondary education, students can learn how to budget, save and spend wisely at a young age. These skills can help them avoid common money mistakes such as overspending or debt. Financial education also teaches the importance of saving for the future so that they are financially stable in the long term.

### Financial independence

As students transition into adulthood, they face financial responsibilities such as paying for college, managing expenses or even starting a business. Financial education gives them the knowledge and confidence they need to manage these tasks. Lessons on topics such as understanding credit, avoiding fraud and dealing with credit are

particularly useful. With this foundation, students can make informed decisions that will help them become financially independent.

## Fighting poverty and improving communities

Financial literacy not only helps the individual, but also benefits the community (Queensborough National Bank & Trust Company, 2024). When people know how to manage their finances, they are less likely to fall into debt and build wealth over time. Educating young Filipinos about finances can break the cycle of poverty by empowering them to plan for a better future. Imagine a generation of students who grow up knowing how to invest in their education, save for emergencies and start small businesses. This kind of change can not only move families forward, but entire communities.

Financial education also fits well with the country's drive to promote entrepreneurship. The Philippines is known for its micro and small businesses, but many fail due to poor financial management. By teaching students about cash flow, pricing and saving, schools can inspire future entrepreneurs who are equipped for success.

While there are challenges to integrating financial education, such as providing trained teachers and resources, the long-term benefits far outweigh the difficulties. Schools can start small by incorporating financial topics into existing subjects such as math or social studies. Cooperation with financial institutions can also provide materials and training for teachers and students.

To summarize, the inclusion of financial literacy in the Philippine high school curriculum is an important step in empowering young Filipinos. It teaches them responsible money management, prepares them for financial independence and contributes to the country's economic growth. By giving students the tools to understand and manage their finances, we are not only preparing them for the future – we are also giving them the keys to a better life.

## References:

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