

EconomicEmpowerment

PRESS RELEASE

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TREASURER WOODEN, TEACHERS KICKOFF LISTENING TOUR WITH TALK ON FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Wooden Turns to Educators on Financial Literacy at First Tour Stop; Partnerships & Policy Key Focus of Meriden Forum

HARTFORD, CT — Today, Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden led a discussion with teachers from across the state about ways to enhance and expand financial education and work-based learning opportunities for Connecticut students. Wooden joined more than 65 teachers and curriculum directors as part of a Connecticut Department of Education personal finance education workshop at H.C. Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden. Teachers shared feedback on the importance of financial education for students, the need for uniform curriculum guidelines, and the benefits of leveraging strong partnerships with financial institutions to support financial literacy efforts for students.

“As a state, we have to ask ourselves: how are we preparing Connecticut’s students today to make complex financial decisions as adults tomorrow,” said **State Treasurer Shawn Wooden**. “Research tells us, students exposed to personal finance education have a better chance at achieving financial stability in adulthood. Since financial well-being and the state’s economy are directly linked, the work these educators do to bring financial coursework into classrooms is critically important.”

In recent months, financial education has come into greater focus as the student debt burden continues to rise and new research reveals glaring gaps in financial literacy among young adults:

- One in five American high school students [lack basic financial skills](#)
- Young people who develop finance fundamentals are [more likely to become financially secure adults](#)
- [Connecticut is ranked 6th highest](#) in the nation for college graduates with student debt, with an average of more than \$31,000
- Young adults (ages 18-34) have the [highest levels of stress and anxiety](#) about their personal finances, more than any other age group

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recognizes the importance of personal finance education and offers a variety of tools and resources to school districts, including workshops and teacher trainings. A record number of educators attended today’s workshop, which included a discussion on the local personal finance graduation requirement in Simsbury and a curriculum model session led by Next Gen Personal Finance, a non-profit organization which connects educators with free resources and professional development for financial education. Every year, CSDE sponsors a statewide Middle and High School Personal Finance Conference and over the past five years, CSDE

has distributed over 20 grants to high schools to provide support with incorporating personal finance courses into their school curriculum. More information and resources can be found [here](#).

Wooden's stop in Meriden follows his announcement earlier this week that he will be conducting a statewide Economic Empowerment listening tour to engage communities on ways to improve the economic wellbeing of residents, businesses and the State of Connecticut. The purpose of the Treasurer's Economic Empowerment listening tour is to tap into the knowledge, insights and feedback of different industry and community voices on ways to strengthen our economy and the financial wellbeing of families in Connecticut.

The Treasurer's Economic Empowerment listening tour is covering a variety of financial issues, including: workforce development & job creation, K-12 financial literacy education, personal finance, retirement security, college financing, homeownership, business start-ups & entrepreneurship, community banking, credit counseling & tax assistance, among other economic issues. Feedback from the listening tour will inform the work and priorities of the Office of the Treasurer.

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