



I would like to express my thanks to the members who participated in the Financial Literacy survey we sent out. Your feedback was extremely valuable to me as I represented the parent perspective on a panel at a Financial Literacy Forum held at Hofstra University on May 4, 2009.

In addition to the statistics we were able to gather from your responses, I also spoke about the importance of engaging all the stakeholders in this conversation. Since one of our most important priorities is raising the level of family, school and community engagement in our schools to ensure the academic success of our children, I incorporated this into my comments. Schools districts should engage the experts within the greater community to develop curriculum or provide programs to support financial literacy among our children.

I thought you might like to see what our statistics showed (as of 5/1/09).

Nearly 86% of those responding to the survey request believe that it is Very Important to teach financial literacy in schools....but nearly 45% say that nothing is taught at the elementary level, and 50% or more are not aware if anything is offered in their middle or high schools but where it is offered in MS it appears to be incorporated into the regular curriculum & at the HS level it appears in most cases to be a stand alone elective.

When asked how it should be taught in Elementary, middle school or High school - 72% think it should be part of the basic curriculum in elementary school & 22% think it should be required

The number that believes it should be part of the basic curriculum in MS dropped to 66% but those that think it should be required rose to 28%. And at the high school level slightly more than 49% think it should be required as opposed to 42% thinking it should only be part of basic curriculum with a very small percentage indicating that it should be a stand alone elective.

Concern was expressed about the ability to deliver something more in the already tight schedules our students have and to take on yet another issue that should be taught at home. However, all parents may not feel equipped to do this well. Concern was also expressed about the number of credit card solicitations that HS students receive and may be unprepared to understand. In Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy's comments, she noted that Congress is working on legislation to address that and other concerns regarding credit card company practices.

However, it was clear from the majority of the comments that the respondents think something needs to be taught, that the instruction should begin early and be built upon throughout a child's educational career.

Thanks again to all those who participated in this survey and helped me to represent your views!

Susan Lipman, NYS PTA President