

Date: June 3, 2013

For ACTION X

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes X
No

FROM: John L. Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum Design and Services
Sherri Chapman, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator

THROUGH: GwenCarol Holmes, Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: Morton Sherman, Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chairman, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Adoption of textbook for new course, Economics and Personal Finance

BACKGROUND:

Economics and Personal Finance is a new Virginia course requirement mandated by the Virginia State Board of Education. This course is a graduation requirement for students currently enrolled in their sophomore year. It presents economic concepts that help students interpret the daily news, understand how interdependent the world's economies are, and anticipate how events will impact their lives. Additionally, this new state graduation requirement will help students learn that their own human capital (i.e., knowledge and skills) is their most valuable resource and that investing in education and training improves the likelihood of their future economic success. The course will also help students develop thinking skills that include analyzing real-world situations, economic reasoning, decision making, and problem solving.

Following Board of Education policy, a review committee examined multiple available texts. The committee selected the text, *Economics & Personal Finance--A Virginia Course* Pearson Publishing, 2011, ISBN 13: 978-0-558-75873-8. This textbook was chosen for the course because (1) it is well correlated with the state Economics and Personal Finance standards of learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia; (2) it includes unit and chapter essential questions addressing main ideas; (3) it includes guiding questions throughout the chapters; (4) the readability level is clear and graphics are appealing; (5) it includes critical thinking questions and case studies for students to explore; (6) it offers an online student center to help students access assignments, review key concepts, and explore additional resources; and (7) it includes an e-book pdf version.

IMPACT:

All students completing this course and using this text will graduate with a heightened understanding of the significance of personal finance and economic literacy in their own lives—and the lives of members of the society in which they live. Ideally, this course requirement will ensure that graduates of ACPS and Virginia schools become effective consumers, financial planners, and life-long stewards of their finances.

RECOMMENDATION:

A committee of ACPS educators recommends the adoption and purchase of *Economics & Personal Finance-A Virginia Course*. Pearson Publishing, 2011, ISBN 13: 978-0-558-75873-8.

COST ANALYSIS:

The cost for this book is \$84.97 per book (e-book pdf included) and free teacher textbooks and resources. The quote for the total cost of \$28,040.10 has been approved in the FY2014 CTE operating budget.

CONTACT: John L. Brown; Sherri Chapman