

38TH DISTRICT  
STATE SENATOR  
**LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS**

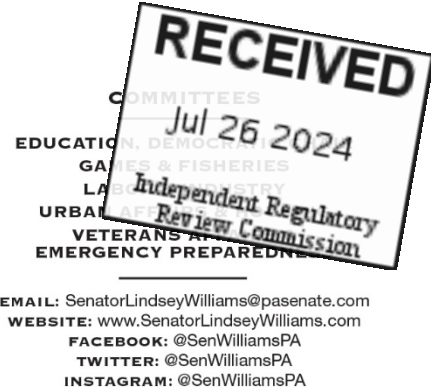
SENATE BOX 203038  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3038  
717-787-6538  
FAX: 717-787-8625

5000 MCKNIGHT ROAD • SUITE 405  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237  
412-364-0469  
FAX: 412-364-0928

1826 UNION AVENUE  
NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065  
724-224-2131  
FAX: 724-224-2145



## Senate of Pennsylvania



July 26, 2024

*Via email at ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov*

State Board of Education  
333 Market Street, 1st Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Re: Proposed amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4, Regulation #6-354

Dear Colleagues:

As Minority Chair of the Senate Education Committee and a member of the State Board of Education, I submit my comments on the proposed amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4, Academic Standards for Personal Finance.

First, I want to express my appreciation to the Board members, staff, and stakeholders who devoted significant time and energy to inform the proposed amendments. Academic standards impact not only today's students but have long term implications on Pennsylvania's communal well-being and economic future. Elevating personal finance within the academic standards will help equip students to make informed decisions about their financial futures. As a first-generation college student, I remember the challenges my family and I faced piecing together financial aid, including student loans that I am still paying today, and certainly would have benefited from contemporary personal finance education.

In preparing these comments, I reviewed the public submissions received during the 30-day comment period and revisited the testimony provided during the public hearings. I was struck by the breadth of support for the Board's decision to update these standards and the broad consensus in moving towards a new, cohesive personal financial standard. The public hearings provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to inform the work of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 committee and numerous testifiers noted their appreciation for the opportunity to provide public input early in the process. This transparent, deliberative process surely contributed to the Board's unanimous adoption of the proposed amendments on January 11, 2024.

As the regulatory review process continues, I want to uplift the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation's written testimony on the importance of providing financial education to all students, including those with disabilities. Students with disabilities can and do meet academic standards. A student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is the appropriate

mechanism to establish accommodations and set personalized goals that allow the student to make progress towards those standards. This also consistent with the language in Act 35 of 2023.

Similarly, the public comments from the Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children / Trying Together resonated with me as the Commonwealth continues to face a shortage of affordable, inclusive childcare. I encourage the Academic Standards Committee to consider their feedback and explore including early childhood / K-2 educators as an example of a potential career pathway in the final regulations.

Thank you again to the Board, staff, and stakeholders who devoted time and energy to inform these broadly supported standards. As minority chair of the Senate Education Committee, I will continue to work to ensure that all students have the resources they need to meet the state's academic standards and the expectations we set for them as a Board.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey M. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Lindsey M. Williams  
Pennsylvania's 38th Senatorial District

cc: Independent Regulatory Review Commission