

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release ★ May 15, 2009

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CPS To Teach Money-Management Skills to All Students

Cincinnati Public Schools will introduce lessons focused on teaching students in all grades about personal finance starting next August, launching a strategy that goes far beyond a new state requirement to provide this content in high school only.

CPS is among the first school districts in Ohio to take personal finance lessons into classrooms in kindergarten through 12th grade.

CPS will announce its strategy for personal finance education at a **10:30 a.m. press conference on Tuesday, May 19, at Roberts Paideia Academy, 1702 Grand Avenue, Price Hill.** Superintendent Mary Ronan, State Auditor Mary Taylor and John Morris, education director at the University of Cincinnati's Economics Center for Education & Research, will make the announcement. There also will be classroom demonstrations of grade-appropriate personal finance lessons.

The City of Cincinnati will proclaim May 19 as Financial Education Day.

New Ohio core high-school graduation requirements mandate that students receive lessons in personal finance before graduation, starting with the Class of 2014 (eighth-graders next school year). School districts already teach such classes as economics and accounting, but the new focus on personal finance will bring into the curriculum lessons on how to budget, save, invest and obtain credit when students become wage earners.

"We want to offer all our students numerous opportunities to master these vital life skills tied to managing their money and becoming financially responsible adults," Ronan said. "Today's economy has taught us how important it is to graduate well-rounded students who know how to thrive amid financial challenges."

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To help address the new graduation requirements, CPS is partnering with local business and community organizations, including UC's Economics Center for Education & Research — an organization with a mission of promoting economics and financial education in schools. The Economics Center will redesign CPS' high school economics courses to include personal finance content, such as budgeting and managing a checking account. Over 60 volunteers from the business community have given input on what personal finance topics should be taught in high schools.

In addition, CPS plans to train many of its high school teachers on personal finance content and strategies to effectively integrate these lessons into various curricular areas.

And, at Roberts Paideia Academy and 20 other CPS elementary schools, there already are programs in place that teach personal finance, delivered by UC's Economics Center.

On May 19, there will be opportunities at Roberts Paideia Academy to see a sampling of the personal finance lessons and activities in use now in Cincinnati Public Schools:

- **Kindergarten:** Activities tied to financial choices connected with pet ownership
- **Grade 3:** Students in StEP (Student Enterprise Program) — where each child has a classroom job and earns school-based currency — will visit the Mobile Incentive Van, where they can decide to spend or save their earnings
- **Grade 5:** Micro enterprise session, a math lesson and interactive computer simulation of a lemonade-stand business
- **Grade 8:** Math and Social Studies interactive lesson on investing

INTERVIEWS: Superintendent Ronan, State Auditor Taylor and Morris will be available for interviews on May 19 after the news conference.



Cincinnati Public Schools, a district of 58 schools serving a diverse population of 34,600 students in preschool to 12th grade, prepares students for life through rigorous academic programs, numerous enrichment opportunities and strong community partnerships. CPS has maintained the Continuous Improvement ranking, the third-highest available, from the Ohio Department of Education for the last four years. Its graduation rate has increased from 60 percent to 82 percent since 2002. Three of its high schools – Walnut Hills High School, Withrow University High School and Clark Montessori High School – are ranked among the top 1,000 public high schools in the United States, according to national magazines. CPS is in year six of a \$1-billion Facilities Master Plan to renovate or build new facilities for all students. To learn more about Cincinnati Public Schools, visit www.cps-k12.org.

The Economics Center for Education & Research is a not-for-profit organization. Its vision is to build a vibrant community by inspiring students to appreciate and use their economic freedom and opportunities. The Center's work in the community is carried out through educational outreach in local schools that enhances financial literacy and builds an entrepreneurial spirit in students.