

January 4, 2019

**New Financial Literacy Instructional Requirements for Middle School Students to Begin with the 2019-2020 School Year**

*by Joseph L. Roselle, Esq.*

On January 3, 2019, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, in her capacity as Acting Governor while Governor Murphy was out-of-state, signed into law P.L. 2018, c. 167, which requires school districts to provide financial literacy instruction to all students in grades six through eight.

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, school districts must implement new classes that provide Middle School students with the basic financial literacy necessary for sound financial decision-making. The new financial literacy courses must, at a minimum, be age-appropriate for students at a particular grade level, and include content on budgeting, savings, credit, debt, insurance, investment, and other issues associated with personal financial responsibility, which will be determined by the State Board of Education at a later date.

The law also requires the Commissioner of Education to provide school districts with sample instructional materials and resources that may be used to develop a curriculum and implement the financial literacy requirement. Because the law does not provide specifics on the actual instruction to be taught to students to achieve these goals, or the specific textbook or materials to be used, the final decision on what constitutes an appropriate class and curriculum remains up to the individual school district at this time, subject to any future regulations that may be issued by the State Board of Education.

If you have any questions regarding the effect of this new law, please do not hesitate to contact the school law attorneys at Schenck Price.

*DISCLAIMER: This Alert is designed to keep you aware of recent developments in the law. It is not intended to be legal advice, which can only be given after the attorney understands the facts of a particular matter and the goals of the client.*

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