



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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*EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor*

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## GOVERNOR RENDELL PROCLAIMS APRIL AS 'FINANCIAL EDUCATION MONTH'

**HARRISBURG** – At a time when many individuals and families are facing difficult financial choices as a result of the nationwide economic crisis, Governor Edward G. Rendell has proclaimed April to be “Financial Education Month” in Pennsylvania.

“Many Pennsylvanians are facing real hardship and we are taking unprecedented steps to help them through this especially challenging period,” Governor Rendell said. “At a time when people are working extra hard to stretch every dollar, it is essential that they have the tools they need to make informed financial decisions.”

Pennsylvania's financial education Web site -- [www.moneysbestfriend.com](http://www.moneysbestfriend.com) – offers a wide array of personal finance advice, ranging from creating a budget to coping with the financial repercussions of a death, divorce, illness, or job loss. Web visitors can also enter their ZIP code to find local financial education resources offered by non-profit organizations, government agencies, and other reputable sources. Parents can also find a list of children's books that can be used to teach financial concepts in addition to fostering a lifelong love of reading.

The Web site is operated by the Department of Banking's Office of Financial Education.

“During the past five years, the Office of Financial Education has worked behind-the-scenes to make Pennsylvania a leader in providing financial education to students and educators, employers and community organizations. As one of only two offices of its kind at the nation, I am enormously proud of the work they do on behalf of Pennsylvanians,” the Governor added.

The Office of Financial Education helps teachers incorporate personal finance principles into their courses; shows employers how to provide personal finance tips, tools and training to their employees in ways that complement their business objectives and boost their bottom lines; and

provides assistance to community-based organizations helping them to improve their delivery of high-quality financial education and counseling.

Each year, the office helps approximately 500 teachers incorporate age-appropriate financial concepts into reading, writing, mathematics, consumer sciences and other courses. The assistance is provided for free through assorted in-service training and the Governor's Institute for Financial Education, a weeklong professional development program. This year, up to 100 teachers will attend this full scholarship program at Elizabethtown College from July 12-17.

Teachers can also take advantage of new "Resources for Educators" section of [www.moneysbestfriend.com](http://www.moneysbestfriend.com), which includes information on how to start a financial education program, curricula and standards, model lesson plans and best practices, as well as insights from fellow educators on the forefront of financial education in the classroom. Similar resources for community organizations and workplaces will be launched later this year.

The Office of Financial Education will also host the third annual Common Wealth Symposium on May 12-13 to help community organizations launch or enhance financial education programs. For the first time, the symposium will offer breakout sessions for employers and feature a presentation by Tom Garman, one of the foremost researchers into how financial education can benefit a business' bottom line through increased employee productivity and attendance, lower staff turnover, and even reduced health care costs.

In 2008, the office launched a new curriculum called "Right on the Money," which is being used in libraries and other community settings to teach personal financial concepts to families with children. The program was developed in partnership with the Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Heinz Endowments.

"As a society, we must consider financial education to be a lifelong process that begins in elementary school and continues throughout life," said Governor Rendell. "Whether it is counting coins as a youngster, buying a first home or investing for retirement, there is always something new to learn."

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*The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter at: [www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us).*

PROCLAMATION

*FINANCIAL EDUCATION MONTH*

*April 2009*

WHEREAS, Financial education is critical to helping Pennsylvanians achieve financial security, meet personal financial goals and avoid dangerous financial pitfalls; and

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a financial crisis that has left a growing number of Pennsylvanians struggling to meet the obligations of their mortgages, automobile loans, credit cards and other debts; and

WHEREAS, a greater understanding and familiarity with financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity, growth and security; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Office of Financial Education will offer programs again this year to help teachers, community-based organizations and employee benefits professionals provide high-quality, age-appropriate financial education; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Office of Financial Education maintains the “Your Money’s Best Friend” Web site — *www.moneysbestfriend.com* — to help people address personal money management issues and connect to valuable low- and no-cost financial education opportunities in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, a partnership with the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension, the Heinz Endowments and the Pennsylvania Office of Financial Education has resulted in an innovative curriculum for families with children that is offered by libraries, county extension offices and community-based organizations statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency provides homebuyer education and administers three programs to help Pennsylvanians avoid foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, many Pennsylvania financial institutions will participate in “Teach Children to Save Day” on April 21 and “National Credit Union Youth Week,” which will be celebrated from April 19-25, during which financial professionals will visit schools and teach young people basic principles of saving and spending; and

WHEREAS, these endeavors are worthy of support and cooperation for the benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth to protect their financial futures.

THEREFORE, In special recognition of the importance of expanding quality financial education, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2009 FINANCIAL EDUCATION MONTH in Pennsylvania and encourage all citizens, parents, teachers, community leaders, and others to seek ways to improve their own personal finance habits.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this first day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-third.

*EDWARD G. RENDELL*  
*Governor*