

**Statement of Purpose**  
***Why Personal Finance?***  
**By Eric Talbot**

So often in our society people find themselves struggling to manage their money. Many cannot budget their income or plan their financial future effectively. Few know how to buy a home and even fewer know how to invest. This lack of financial knowledge has had catastrophic consequences on our community and our country as a whole. Our debt is high, our savings is low and our financial knowledge is severely hampered. This is of little surprise since almost no K-12 curriculum offers any real expertise on the subject. We have assumed for decades that people either will gain financial sense through their parents/families or just learn it as they go through life. This has not worked and we are left with a society that is unprepared for the financial realities of life.

The reason for this Personal Finance course at the high school level is to give soon to be graduates financial knowledge and know-how and to offer them tools that will come in handy in the future, immediate and long term. This course will develop the students' ability to make smart, sound financial decisions about basics such as opening a savings account to more advanced knowledge such as investing in the stock market.

The Cognitive processes are the most important in this course. This is not intended to be a once-in-a-lifetime learning event. This is about developing financial sense and awareness in our young people so they can transfer these skills to real life situations they will encounter as they enter the post-high school phase of their lives. Credit cards, college, cars, homes, insurance, taxes, investments can be overwhelming, especially if people do not have knowledge of how these systems and processes work along with a tool bag for helping themselves along the way. With the financial intelligence this class will provide, our students can and will be able to solve their real world financial questions without evolving into real world financial problems.