



**For Immediate Release**

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**JUMP\$START SURVEY SHOWS ALMOST 80% LEAVE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS  
WITHOUT TAKING A COURSE IN PERSONAL FINANCE**

Meriden, Connecticut – October 27, 2015 – Despite broad agreement on the importance of teaching the basics of personal finance in secondary schools, a recent survey completed by the Connecticut Jump\$Start Coalition, a non-profit advocate for financial education, found that roughly four out of five students in Connecticut’s public high schools graduate without any formal course in the subject.

The results of the survey of 136 public high school districts in the state were disclosed by Connecticut Jump\$Start president Christopher Lee on October 15 at the *2015 Connecticut Financial Literacy Summit*, a meeting of educators, policymakers, businesses and parents organized by CT Jump\$Start and the Office of the State Treasurer.

According to Lee, of the approximately 170,000 students currently enrolled in Connecticut public high schools:

- Only 12,000 students are required to take a Personal Finance class
- About 24,500 students take Personal Finance as an elective
- Roughly 133,000 students (or 78%) will leave high school without having taken a Personal Finance course

Lee said that these numbers are unacceptable. “Having almost 80% of our high school students finish their secondary education without a basic knowledge of personal finance leaves them vulnerable to some very costly mistakes – mistakes that often have long-lasting repercussions,” he said. “Connecticut can – and must – do better.”

Connecticut Jump\$Start’s survey results follow on the heels of the Champlain College Center for Financial Literacy’s release of its 2015 report card measuring how well states across the nation are providing personal finance education. As it had in 2013, Connecticut received a grade of F on the report. While Connecticut was listed among those failing states which have some programs promoting financial literacy education in their high schools, the study stated that “this support does not eliminate the possibility of a student leaving high school without access to any financial literacy instruction prior to graduation.”

In terms of remedying the situation, Lee views the *2015 Connecticut Financial Literacy Summit* as an initial step in getting stakeholders together to formulate an action plan. “Other states have overcome the same obstacles that Connecticut faces,” he points out. “There’s no reason that, working together, we can’t come up with a plan to ensure our students are prepared to enter the world with this essential life skill.”

**About the Jump\$Start Coalition**

The Jump\$Start Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy is a Washington, DC-based not-for-profit organization that seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of students in pre-kindergarten through college. Jump\$Start’s nearly 150 national partners and 51 affiliated state coalitions work individually and collectively to educate and prepare our nation’s youth for life-long financial success. For more information about the Connecticut chapter, go to [www.ctjumpstart.org](http://www.ctjumpstart.org).