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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB3

Does the dollar sign go in front of, or behind the number? A simple question, but surprisingly an increasingly relevant one. As a high school math teacher I see countless examples of students not understanding this basic idea. Why does it matter? This is an illustration of how little students today know about money. They have their debit cards and their Venmo and CashApp. When I was in school, the joke was "how can I be out of money, I still have checks?" Now it is no joke. Students do not have a basic understanding of the importance of things like budgets, savings accounts or loans, things they will need to understand to be successful in adulthood. This is one of the main reasons I am supporting SB 3. Adulting is hard, and we are not properly preparing students for adult life. We have been focused on getting every student "college ready". News flash: not every student is interested in going to college, but every student needs to be prepared for life. This bill is a step in the right direction. It will provide much needed financial education and give students practical skills they can take into the real world, regardless of what their post high school plans are. True, it may mean that seniors have one less period of teacher aide, or late arrival, or early release. But it will also mean that students are better setup for success once they leave high school. Seems like a reasonable tradeoff to me. And by the way, the dollar sign comes before the number, in case you were wondering.