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AUTHOR Brennan, Dennis C.
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ABSTRACT

Fifty state departments of education were surveyed to determine state changes in economics education (including consumer education and free enterprise education) mandates since an earlier survey conducted in 1981 by Brennan and Banaszak. Findings, which are presented in a table summarizing the status of mandates for economics instruction in each state, show that as of March 1, 1985: (1) 27 states had mandated that students receive some form of instruction in economics; (2) 15 states required at least a semester course in economics for high school graduation; (3) four states required that high schools make available a course in economics for those students who elect to take it; (4) 24 states had an economics/free enterprise mandate; and (5) 10 states had mandates for economic education. Comments about the nature of these changes and state funding allocated for economics education are also provided in the table. A second table outlining graduation course requirements in economics in 15 states concludes the booklet. (LH)

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A SURVEY OF STATE MANDATES
FOR
ECONOMICS INSTRUCTION
1985-86

Prepared By
Dennis C. Brennan
Center for Economic Education
School of Education
University of the Pacific

Joint Council on Economic Education
2 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 685-5499

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Joint Council on Economic Education

The Joint Council on Economic Education is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational organization incorporated in 1949 to encourage, improve, coordinate and service economic education. The mission of the Joint Council is to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of economic education in the nation's schools.

The Joint Council provides more than 100 curriculum products for grades kindergarten through twelve ranging from teacher guides and strategies manuals, to film series, to computer software. In addition, the Joint Council also provides teacher training and curriculum development consulting programs for schools.

These products and services are delivered locally through an affiliated network consisting of 50 state Councils on Economic Education, over 260 university and college-based Centers for Economic Education, and thousands of school districts nationwide. Joint Council programs impact over 600,000 teachers and 13 million students nationwide annually.

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Purpose

The purpose of this project was to update a survey conducted by Brennan and Banaszak¹ 1981 to determine the existence of mandates for instruction in economics, free enterprise and/or consumer education at the elementary and secondary school levels within the fifty states.

Within the context of this survey a mandate is defined as any legislation or state board of education ruling that requires students to receive instruction in economics. This may be in the form of a course, a unit, prescribed lessons, or through infusion. The intent of the survey was to determine the existence of mandates for economics instruction in the various states. The degree to which such mandates are enforced was not taken into consideration.

Data Collection

The data collection procedure involved surveying the fifty state departments of education to determine if there has been a change in the status of an economics, consumer or free enterprise education mandate since the 1981 survey, what is the nature of the change, if any, and if state level funds have been allocated for economic education.

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Initial contact was made by a mail questionnaire sent in January 1985 to the state social studies supervisors as identified in the Directory of the Council of State Social Studies Specialists. Telephone contact was made with non-respondents to clarify data as needed. Through the questionnaire and telephone communication most of the required data were obtained from the various state departments of education. In a few cases the data were obtained from the state Council on Economic Education.

Because of the rapidly changing nature of trends in education, it often is difficult to obtain a precise fix on any given situation. The data presented in this study are based on the most accurate information available at this time.

Presentation and Summation of the Data

Table 1 presents a summary of the status of mandates for economics instruction in the various states. The table is constructed on information available as of March 1, 1985. The data show that twenty-seven states (Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming) currently have a mandate for economics instruction in some form.

The original 1981 "A Study of State Mandates and Competencies for Economic Education," reported that 24 states mandated economics instruction in some form. A 1983 addendum to that study brought the total to 27 states. However, there have been changes within some of the individual state mandates and in the states that have added or repealed mandates. Mandates for economics instruction have been added in Hawaii, New Hampshire, New York, and Pennsylvania. Consumer education mandates in Kentucky and Wisconsin have been repealed. And mandates requiring the K-12 infusion of economics have been repealed in Mississippi and Oklahoma. Thus the total of 27 states requiring some form of state mandated economics instruction remains constant.

The 1981 "A Study of State Mandate and Competencies for Economic Education," reported that seven states (Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Oregon, South Carolina, and Tennessee) required a semester or year course in economics. The most recent data reveal that 8 additional states (California, Florida, Idaho, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia) have added at least a semester course requirement in economics for high school graduation. (See Table 2)

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Four states (Arkansas, Ohio, Utah, and Virginia) require each high school to offer a course in economics although students are not required to take the course.

Of the 27 states mandating economics instruction of some sort 24 (Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming) have Free Enterprise/Economic Education mandates. Mandates for consumer education exist in ten states (Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee). Seven states (Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee) have both Free Enterprise/Economic Education and consumer education mandates.

Summary

As of March 1, 1985, the status of state mandates for economics instruction in the various states is as follows:

1. Twenty-seven states mandate that students receive some form of instruction in economics.

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2. Fifteen states require at least a semester course in economics for high school graduation.
3. Four states require that high schools make available a course in economics for those students that elect to take it.
4. Twenty-four states have an Economics/Free Enterprise mandate.
5. Ten states have mandates for economic education.

¹Brennan, Dennis C. and Banaszak, Ronald A.
A Survey of State Mandates and Competencies for Economic Education,
Stockton, CA.: Center for the Development of Economic Education,
University of the Pacific, 1981. Funded originally by the
Foundation for Teaching Economics.

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TABLE I

A Summary Table On The Status Of State Mandates For Economics Instruction

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Included	Comments
Alabama	YES	X		X	X	1/2 unit of economics is required for seniors. The legislature requires that adequate instruction be given in communism each year with the purpose of instilling a greater appreciation of the American system. Teacher certification for all areas requires a minimum of 3 hours college credit in economics.
Alaska	NO					
Arizona	YES	X		X		1/2 unit on the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system is required for graduation. The state's mandated essential skills list includes free enterprise skills.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Infusion	Comments
Arkansas	NO					Standards will go into effect in 1986 requiring each high school to offer a 1/2 unit course in economics. Students are not required to take the course. Economics content is included in the 6th and 8th grade statewide test. \$90,000 is provided for economic education through the state department of education.
California	YES	X		X	X	Senate Bill 813 requires that commencing with the 1986-87 school year a course in American government, civics, and economics will be a graduation requirement. The state's "Model Graduation Requirement" recommends that one semester of this course be devoted to economics. Economics content is required by the California Education Code, Section 51210-"... Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding...the development of the American economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor." Infusion occurs in grades K-12.
Colorado	NO					Strong local autonomy prevails.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Infusion	Comments
Connecticut	YES	X			X	P.A. 79-128 Section 10-16B — "Social Studies, includes, but is not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government and history." Economics was added in 1979 as part of the State Board's legislative package. Infusion occurs in grades K-12.
Delaware	YES	X	X		X	A unit of instruction in free enterprise is required no later than the beginning of eighth grade. Forty-five hours of instruction in consumer education is required within grades 7-12. \$50,000 is provided from the state legislature to fund 1.5 field directors.
Florida	YES	X	X	X	X	The Free Enterprise and Consumer Education Act of 1974 requires that "The public schools shall each conduct a free enterprise & consumer education program in which each student will participate." Infusion occurs in grades K-12. A semester course in economics is required for high school graduation. The course may be offered in grades 9-12. \$310,000 is provided by the state legislature to the department of education for the Florida Council on Economic Education to allocate to its university Centers for Economic Education.

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State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Initiation	Comments
Georgia	YES	X		X		A semester course in the principles of economics/free enterprise is required for graduation. The course may be offered in grades 9-12.
Hawaii	YES		X		X	A required unit of study on consumer education must be taken for graduation, within grades 9-12.
Idaho	YES	X	X	X	X	A one semester course in consumer education is required for graduation. The course requires an understanding of theories and principles of economics that make the free enterprise system work in our society. Consumer education is required in grades K-12. \$46,000 is provided by the state legislature to Boise State University, Center for Economic Education.
Illinois	YES		X		X	<u>School Code of Illinois, 1983,</u> Section 27-12.1 Consumer education. "Pupils in the public schools in grades 9 through 12 shall be taught and be required to study courses which will include instruction in the area of consumer education...."

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Inclusion	Comments
Indiana	NO					More school corporations are beginning to require economics on their own. About 50% of Indiana students take some form of economics. The state legislature is considering funding to expand economics education in the state. Currently the states provides \$100,000.
Iowa	NO					Strong local autonomy exists.
Kansas	NO					The Consumer Credit Commissioner's Officer has awarded \$65,000 to the Kansas Council on Economic Education to conduct programs in personal and consumer economic education, kindergarten through adult.
Kentucky	NO					During the 1984 legislative session, the state's consumer education mandate was repealed.
Louisiana	YES	X			X	1/2 unit is required for graduation. The statute states "that all public high schools shall give instruction on the essentials & benefits of the free enterprise system in which each student will participate, as a prerequisite to graduation." The course is taught in grades 9-12. The state has appropriated \$68,000 to be distributed to the Louisiana Council on Economic Education for workshops and projects.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Included	Comments
Maine	NO					Economics is included as part of the state's social studies assessment program.
Maryland	YES	X	X		X	In 1982 the State Board of Education approved the Maryland Social Studies Bylaw. The Bylaw mandates goals and subgoals for instruction in the state's elementary & secondary school. Instruction in economics is mandated by goals & its subgoals. Goal 2 reads: "To help students understand the historical development & current status of the economic principles, institutions, & processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, & workers in American society. \$105,864 is provided by the state legislature to Towson State University for the Maryland Council on Economic Education, earmarked for administrative expenses.
Mass - achusetts	NO					Strong local autonomy exists.
Michigan	NO					On 12/11/84 the State Board of Education passed a resolution in full support of the concept and operation of the Joint Council's "Developmental Economic Education Program" (DEEP) as a desirable effort for all school districts in the state.

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State	Mandate	Economic Education or 5th Grade Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Inclusion	Comments
Minnesota	NO					The legislature funded social-studies-education teacher-improvement projects at about \$300,000. Approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 went to K-12 economic education including identifying learned outcomes, evaluation plans, & materials.
Mississippi	NO					The Education Reform Act, 1982, repealed the previously existing economic education mandate.
Missouri	NO					A basic essential skills test given in grade 8 includes economic objectives. A course in economics is required for elementary and secondary social studies teaching certificates. Teachers are eligible for tuition reimbursement from the state for successful completion of a credit course of instruction on basic economics.
Montana	NO					Some school districts are beginning to require economics for graduation.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Inclusion	Comments
Nebraska	NO					The State Department of Education encourages the teaching of economics through a variety of programs including an instructional television economics program for the junior-senior high and a complete instructional program in economics for junior high school students.
Nevada	YES	X			X	Assembly Bill 395 (1981) requires that the economics of the American free enterprise system be taught in all the public high schools. The legislation prescribes lessons to be taught but leaves it to local option as to how the instruction will be provided. One credit in economics is required for the re-certification of all teachers.
New Hampshire	YES	X		X		At least 1/2 unit in basic business and economic education is required for graduation.

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State	Mandate	Economic Education & The Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Infused	Comments
New Jersey	NO					Local districts initiate curricula.
New Mexico	NO					The State Department of Education has proposed a list of competencies in economics for grades 3, 5, 8, and 12.
New York	YES	X		X	X	The State Board of Education has mandated a 12th grade economics course. Economic concepts are infused into the business, home economics, and social studies program, in grades K-11. In-service funds for teacher development to implement the mandated 12th grade course is available. Implementation of the mandated course is required by September 1988. \$50,000 is provided by the state legislative to the state department of education earmarked for the New York Council on Economic Education to provide teacher training.
North Carolina	YES	X		X	X	Students graduating during or after the 1986-87 school year must successfully complete one unit of government and economics. Economics is required as part of the minimum K-12 social studies standard course of study. Economics is included in the competencies, goals and performance indicators for the state.

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State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Inclusion	Comments
North Dakota	NO					A minimum curriculum statute exists that encourages the teaching of economics and the free enterprise system.
Ohio	NO					Every high school must schedule a 1/2 year course in economics. It, however, is not a graduation requirement.
Oklahoma	NO					Economic education is no longer mandated by law. \$15,000 is provided by the state legislature.
Oregon	YES	X	X	X		One unit (one year) of personal finance and economics is required for graduation. Each local school district decides at what grade level (9-12) to place the course.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Intiated	Comments
Penn - sylvania	YES	X	X		X	Beginning with the 1985-86 school year the State Board of Education will place greater stress upon the role of "Goals of Quality Education" and the accompanying "learning objectives." All objectives identified shall be included in planned courses to be taken by all students at least once at the elementary, once at the junior/middle, and once at the high school levels. The listing of learning objectives includes economic/consumer education. The local school districts are required to submit evidence that each of the "Goals of Quality Education" and their learning objectives are addressed in the planning courses.
Rhode Island	YES		X			A 1979 Statute requires that students shall receive yearly instruction in consumer education in grades 9-12.
South Carolina	YES			X		1/2 unit of economics is required for graduation. Local districts determine the grade level, 9-12. \$100,000 is provided by the state legislature.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Infusion	Comments
South Dakota	X				X	"All public and non public schools shall provide instruction on the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system." A separate course or infusion to occur in grades K-12 is at the discretion of the local districts.
Tennessee	YES	X	X	X		1/2 unit of combined free enterprise system and consumer economics is required for graduation. Students may satisfy this requirement by participating in Junior Achievement or distributive education.
Texas	YES	X		X	X	Texas Education Code, Sect. 21.101 states "Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer a well-balanced curriculum that includes..... economics with an emphasis on the free enterprise system & its benefits." State Board of Education Rules for Curriculum prescribes that economics shall be taught at each grade level. 1/2 unit of "Economics, with emphasis of Free Enterprise System and its Benefits" is required for graduation.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Inhibition	Comments
Utah	YES	X			X	A 1975 statute requires that "All public high schools shall give instruction on the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system." A State Board requirement states "Each high school must offer 'American Social and Economic Problems' to students who desire to take it." \$100,000 has been allocated to the State Office of Education for free enterprise education.
Vermont	NO					Local autonomy exists.
Virginia	YES	X			X	The State Board requires one unit of instruction on the free enterprise system within the required course on Virginia & United States government. Graduating students shall demonstrate mastery of minimum competencies in citizenship & the free enterprise system. Effective July 1, 1984, all schools were required to offer a course in economic education. It is not a graduation requirement. Six credit hours of economics are required for certification as a secondary social studies teacher; three credit hours of economics are required of all elementary schools that teach social studies.

State	Mandate	Economic Education or Free Enterprise Education	Consumer Education	Required Course	Inclusion	Comments
Washington	NO					
West Virginia	YES	X		X		A course in economics is required at the 11th or 12th grade.
Wisconsin	NO					The previous consumer economics mandate has been repealed.
Wyoming	YES	X			X	Minimum requirements for a high school diploma include "...An understanding of the process and structure of democratic governance & our free enterprise system." Local school districts are to determine their own standards for proficiency and program requirements for graduation.

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TABLE II

Graduation Course Requirements In Economics

<u>STATE</u>	<u>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</u>
Alabama	1/2 unit in economics.
Arizona	1/2 unit on the essentials of the free enterprise system.
California	A course in American government, civics and economics. (Effective 1986-87).
Florida	A semester course in economics.
Georgia	A semester course in the principles of economics/free enterprise.
Idaho	A semester course in consumer education/principles of economics that make the free enterprise system work.
Louisiana	1/2 unit of economics.
New Hampshire	1/2 unit of basic business and economic education.
New York	1/2 unit in economics. (Effective September 1988)
North Carolina	1 unit of government and economics. (Effective 1986-87)

Oregon	1 unit (one year) of personal finance and economics.
South Carolina	1/2 unit of economics.
Tennessee	1/2 unit of combined free enterprise system and economics.
Texas •	1/2 unit of "Economics, with emphasis on the Free Enterprise System."
West Virginia	A course at the 11th or 12th grade.