

Financial literacy is in economics course

The guest essay by State Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa and State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli contains vital information regarding the importance of teaching our children financial literacy ["Teach financial literacy in NYS schools," Opinion, Feb. 5].

As the Long Island Council for the Social Studies has pointed out, financial literacy is already part of the economics course as a requirement for graduation.

The state economics course for the grades 9-12 social studies framework dedicates one of four units to "Individual Responsibility and the Economy." The course includes, among other topics, debt management, credit card choices, interest rates, borrowing

and lending.

Sound personal financial practices take into account wealth and income, the present and future, and risk factors when setting goals and budgeting for anticipated saving and spending. Predatory lending practices target and affect those who are least informed and can least afford such practices.

We applaud the New York State Education Department and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures for stressing the importance of financial literacy as a graduation requirement.

Teachers are already prepared to teach it. To ensure that financial literacy is effectively learned, there should be a state-mandated final assessment exam.

— **GLORIA SESSO,**
PORT JEFFERSON

The writer is LICSS president.