

# News

## Senate Passes Bipartisan Bill to Teach Oregon Students Personal Finance, Career Path Skills

Bill is one of hundreds that were threatened by walkout.

*The Skanner News*

SALEM – Tuesday, the Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 3, which will add to Oregon high school graduation requirements one half-credit of personal finance education and one half-credit of higher education and career path skills.

The bill passed 24-1 and now heads to the House for consideration.

As defined in the bill, personal finance education includes instruction on:

- Credit scores, how to build credit, long-term impacts of good or bad credit and the costs and benefits of borrowing
  - Investments, assets, types of bank accounts, understanding retirement plans and total cost of loan repayment
  - Budgeting strategies
  - Comparing costs associated with renting and home ownership
  - Tax credits, filing state and federal tax forms and familiarity with federal, state, regional and local taxes
  - Financial well-being, including preventing fraud and identity theft
- “Our students must be prepared to make major financial decisions immediately upon graduating high school, if not sooner,” said Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego), co-chief sponsor of the bill. “This bill will help en-

sure our young people are leaving school with the skills they need to make good financial decisions now and throughout their lives.”

Instruction on higher education and career path skills will include:

- Resume writing and job applications
- Applying for post-secondary education institutions, apprenticeships and job-training programs, including finding financial aid and scholarships
- Developing and improving employable skills and taking advantage of community-based learning
- Acting as a self-advocate for mental, physical and financial health

“Our schools have always been about more than reading, writing and arithmetic. They are about helping young people find the path that is best for them,” said Senator Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), co-chief sponsor of the bill. “The better our students understand the various paths they can take after graduating, the more successful they will be on those paths.”

These courses will be required for students graduating in January 2027 and beyond.

Despite having bipartisan support, Senate Bill 3 is one of hundreds of bills that were threatened by the Senate Republican walkout.

## Formerly Wrongfully Incarcerated, Yusef Salaam Runs for Office, Seeking Redemption in the City’s Power Structure

Member of ‘Central Park Five’ is running for a New York City office



AP PHOTO/MARY ALTAFFER

New York City Council candidate Yusef Salaam, right, talks to a Harlem resident while canvassing in the neighborhood, Wednesday, May 24, 2023, in New York. Salaam is one of three candidates in a competitive June 27 Democratic primary. With early voting already begun, he faces two seasoned political veterans: New York Assembly members Al Taylor, 65, and Inez Dickens, 73, who previously represented Harlem on the City Council.

*By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent*

**Y**usef Salaam, a man who endured wrongful imprisonment, has launched a campaign for a seat on the New York City Council.

Widely recognized for the unjust ordeal that altered the trajectory of his life, Salaam now aspires to join the very power structure that once condemned him.

In 1989, when Salaam was just 15 years old, he and four other African American teenagers, collectively known as the Central Park Five, were apprehended by the police.

Falsely accused and convicted of raping and assaulting a white woman in Central Park on April 19 of that fateful year, the group faced years of wrongful incarceration.

Reflecting on his experiences, Salaam remarked during an interview with the Associated Press at his campaign headquarters, “I’ve often said that those who have been close to the pain should have a seat at the table.”

Salaam’s and his co-defendants’ miscarriages of justice, which included Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, and Korey Wise, attracted national attention.

Their convictions were overturned in 2002 when new evidence, including DNA analysis, linked the crime to a serial rapist.

The city awarded the group, now known as the Exonerated Five, a settlement of \$41 million.

Salaam counts among three candidates locked in a closely contested Democratic primary scheduled for June 27.

The primary outcome will determine who will represent Har-

lem’s district in the City Council. “When people look at me and learn my story, they resonate with it,” Salaam expressed with conviction.

“But now, after 34 years, I can utilize the platform I have to re-purpose the pain and help uplift people as we emerge from despair.”

As a native New Yorker, Salaam passionately seeks to address some of Harlem’s most pressing challenges, including poverty, homelessness among children, and the ongoing issue of affordable housing.

Political experts said Salaam’s campaign represents a remarkable journey of resilience and pursuit of redemption.

If successful, he said a goal is to leverage his unique perspective and experiences to advocate for those historically marginalized and neglected.

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