

Nebraska Treasurer Don Stenberg recently announced a statewide initiative to make an online financial literacy education program available to all Nebraska high school students and parents. The initiative, to be called Nebraska NEST Financial Scholars, is expected to be available this fall.

Nebraska NEST Financial Scholars is being offered through an agreement with EverFi, Inc., an educational technology company based in Washington, D.C. The initiative is being sponsored by the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust (NEST), Nebraska's college savings program. Treasurer Stenberg is trustee of NEST.

The interactive, web-based EverFi program will be available to Nebraska high schools at no cost to the schools. A second component of the program will provide Nebraska parents with a web-based tutorial on financing their children's higher education and on learning more about investing through 529 college savings plans.

Both components of Nebraska NEST Financial Scholars will be accessed through the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office website at www.treasurer.org

The EverFi course is offered in 10 modules and includes six hours of programming aimed at teaching, assessing and certifying students in a variety of financial topics including credit cards, credit scores, insurance, mortgages, savings, stocks, student loans, taxes, 401k plans, and other critical concepts that meet national educational financial literacy standards.

The platform tracks the progress and score of each student and provides students who complete the course with Certification in Financial Literacy, an accomplishment that can be included on college applications and resumes.

The EverFi program will be facilitated by teachers to complement other material that is being used in Nebraska classrooms.

To engage students, EverFi relies on new media technologies including video, animation, 3-D gaming, avatars, and social networking. Through the EverFi platform, students will become certified in more than 600 topics in financial education, preparing them to become informed, financially responsible adults.