

Financial literacy program targets elementary students

Burlington, Vermont - June 3, 2010

A new statewide program designed to highlight the importance of reading and teaching children basic money management skills was kicked off Thursday in Burlington.

State Treasurer Jeb Spaulding was talking money with students at the C.P. Smith School in Burlington. Spaulding is promoting a new financial literacy program for Vermont elementary schools. So far 46 have volunteered to participate.

"This initiative, Reading is an Investment, is targeted to elementary students to help them read books that will teach them some important financial information and skills. It is to provide resources to elementary schools around the State of Vermont," Spaulding said.

The program will increase school book collections in personal finance. Each participating school gets two or three new books each fall. It give teachers and librarians related lesson plans and activities. The students are also encouraged to participate in their own financial literacy program -- the incentive -- money. Kids keep track of the books they read, fill out a log and send it to the treasurers office. Ten students statewide will receive a \$250 dollar college savings account. The program is co-sponsored by TD Bank, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and the Vermont Humanities Council.

And it seems already the lessons are sinking in. "Save it and save up for something that is really, really important, or something that you want and that you have been saving for a while," said Eleanor Weisman-Rowell, a student at C.P. Smith School.

"Your future is unlimited but there are many important decisions you are going to have to make and how you manage your money is going to have a lot to do with what kind of opportunities you have the in the future," Spaulding said.

It is a lesson Spaulding hopes the kids will share with their parents, when they get home.

[Judy Simpson](#) - WCAX News

NOTE: The Treasurer's Office also would like to acknowledge the Windham Foundation as one of the major underwriters for the Reading Is an Investment program.

