

Teaching kids to save through art

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An awards ceremony for students at the Vermont Statehouse is part banking, part art. Promoted by the Vt. Treasurer's office and the Vermont Bankers Association, this poster contest encourages financial literacy.

"My poster is about saving money," said Savannah Chism, a fifth-grader from Bethel. "I tried to tell everybody it is good to save money."

It's a lifelong lesson the state's top money manager wants everyone to follow.

"I think the message is they are going to grow up with the skills well into their adult life and into retirement if they continue on this good course. Why is it important for folks to save at a young age? I think we need to develop good habits at an early age. Many studies have shown people will not have the required savings for retirement. When you are late in life it is hard to learn those skills," said Beth Pearce, D-Vt. Treasurer.

But if taught early, it could help these kids when they become seniors.

"You start off by saving your own money to make better choices, saving money for the future and you can also help your town by donating money to some places," said Anna Dieffenback, a sixth-grader from Bethel.

"I think financial literacy is important on an individual level and on a state level it's good for the economy, it's good for the kids," Pearce said.

A message about money for kids who are just starting to manage their finances.

The first place winners of the poster contest get a \$100 U.S. savings bond and their schools received a \$100 cash prize.

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