



# JOSH MANDEL

## STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Ashtabula Star Beacon  
By Jan Perala  
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GENEVA &mdash; For high school seniors on the brink of graduation, the prospect of handling student loans, credit cards, and checking and savings accounts can be intimidating, but thanks to a collaborative effort between the Ohio Treasurer's Office, Northwest Savings Bank and Geneva High School, GHS seniors are better prepared to handle their finances.

April is National Financial Literacy Month and representatives from Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel's office visited Geneva High School this week to recognize advanced placement government teacher David Yost and the school for a continuing commitment to advancing financial literacy education for students poised to enter the real world.

Financial Literacy Officers Jessica Dragar and Jeff Heinrich presented Yost and GHS Principal Douglas Wetherholt with official commendations and also lauded Northwest Savings Bank and its Geneva Branch Manager Shirley Lehman for sponsoring the EverFi Financial Literacy Technology Platform incorporated by Yost into his curriculum.

Yost explained that all seniors in his problems of democracy and advanced placement government classes completed the 10module computer based EverFi Financial Scholars Program.

The program provides interactive instruction focusing on banking, credit scores, insurance, interest rates, credit cards, student loans, mortgages, taxes, stocks, savings, consumer fraud protection and more.

"The format is great for high school students," Yost said. "There is music, it is interactive and fast paced and provides real world advice. The certification that students can earn is a valuable addition to their college applications and resumes."

Geneva students said completing the EverFi program was a reality check and some said they realized that they "didn't know what they didn't know."

"Everfi helped me feel more confident about handling and managing money in the future," GHS senior Michaela Parker said.

Classmate Michelle Brick said "It helped me understand finances better. They offered helpful websites such as FAFSA. It helped me feel more prepared for life."

"I found this site to be so educational and necessary for seniors that I believe every one of them needs to participate in this wonderfuland informative experience," Haley Dodge added.

According to press release provided by Mandel's office, the EverFi program is a component of Mandel's 'Financial EDge' financial literacy initiative which advances efforts to raise awareness and create "financial wellness by providing tools and resources to help citizens across Ohio make sound financial decisions" in partnership with the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and the EverFi Financial Literacy Technology Platform.

"Ohio schools and communities play a crucial role in helping students lay the foundation for a successful financial future," said Mandel in a press release. "I salute these leaders who are helping build a stronger Ohio by providing students the resources needed to positively contribute to Ohio's economic future."

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