

# Financial Literacy for All

## Banking Smarter

Have you ever looked back at high school and wondered why they didn't teach you even the most basic things about dealing with money? This is where BS&L is making a difference right here in our communities. Led by **Theresa Masiello**, our financial literacy programs have steadily grown beyond the classroom with broader impact.

The primary focus of our growth in financial literacy has been working with **Academy School** to provide a school banking program. The program includes education on banking and the rewards of saving. During the 2023 to 2024 school year, students saved \$737.40. During this most current 2024 to 2025 school year, students saved more than \$1,500 and opened four new accounts. Our team is hoping to expand this program to other schools including **Green Street** and **Saint Michael School**.

For the last 2 years, we have created programming during April, which is **Financial Literacy Month**. This past April, we featured and filmed programming around fraud, estate planning, and cryptocurrencies. Though attendance wasn't as high as we wanted, filming those programs has revitalized our YouTube channel.



In addition, the bank's internship program participant from last year, **Madison Wood**, has come back to work with us this summer. This program is through the **Windham Regional Career Center** and offers high schoolers an opportunity to learn about banking by shadowing members of our team.

Madison was the recipient of the **2024 WRCC Scholarship** for \$1,000. Madison obviously learned well last year as she's working as a teller this summer. Congratulations, Madison!

Read more about Madison's experience on the following page.

Finally, we provided information and education about the American banking system for 87 college-bound, new Americans. This happened at the **School for International Training** which is right up behind our north end branch.

The best community bank is the one that helps the community bank smarter. We're proud of our literacy and education team who are making a very real difference. 🐝