



**OFFICE OF
STATE TREASURER
DENISE L. NAPPIER**

NEWS

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STATE TREASURER URGES STUDENTS TO SAVE MONEY, PRAISES EARLY EDUCATION AND SAVINGS EFFORTS

Classroom Visits Mark "Teach Children to Save" Day

State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, a strong advocate for financial education, especially among young people, told students at the William Strong School in **Southington** today that although "today is *Teach Kids to Save Day*, savings is too important for just one day, so I'm declaring that "Spring is Savings Season!"

Nappier will be talking with high school, middle school and elementary school students across Connecticut in a month-long effort to highlight the importance of saving and promote school savings programs. Her sessions with students take place as national surveys indicate that individual savings rates have fallen dramatically in recent years.

The personal savings rate, as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP), fell from 24% during WWII, to 7.5% during the early 1980's, to 2.4% in 2002, according to the Federal Office of Financial Education, established by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, in their Winter 2004 newsletter.

**National Teach
Children to Save Day
April 26, 2005**

"This signals a disturbing trend in our society, and truly underscores the need to improve financial literacy among the nation's young people," said Treasurer Nappier. "We must work together to provide young people with a basic understanding of financial concepts and the information they'll need to make informed financial decisions throughout their lives. I applaud the financial institutions who are taking a leading role in helping our children start good savings habits through school savings programs."

There are a variety of school-based savings programs in Connecticut communities, offered by various financial institutions, some in conjunction with national school savings organizations. Treasurer Nappier will be visiting seven additional schools, in **Bridgeport, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Middletown, Meriden and Litchfield** in the coming weeks.

At a student assembly at the Southington elementary school today, Nappier discussed the importance of setting savings goals and the value of being a habitual saver. Nappier was joined by BankNorth President John Patrick, whose bank sponsors the Save for America[®] program at the William Strong School. The Save for America program, approved by the U.S. Department of Education, allows students to go to school and make a deposit with the help of an adult volunteer. The volunteer takes the student deposits to a local bank and makes one lump-sum deposit into a

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holding account. The next business day, through the Federal Reserve Banking System, Save For America debits the holding account and credits all the students' accounts with their deposits.

On Monday (April 25), Nappier launched the State Treasury's 2005 school visits at the Center Road School in **Vernon**, where students are participating in the Rockville Bank's, "Rocky Raccoon KidSave" savings account program. Nappier was joined in Vernon by Rockville Bank President Bill McGurk.

At both schools, Nappier urged the students to develop the habit of setting aside some of the money they earn, and to set a "savings schedule" by paying themselves- via their savings accounts- before spending their money.

"Financial education can start by opening a savings account for a child, and teaching them the miracle of interest," Nappier said. "Even children in grade school understand that earning money is a good thing, and that can be the beginning of even greater knowledge about saving and investing."

Nappier noted that research has indicated that as little as 10 hours of personal financial education positively affects students' long-term spending and savings habits. While financial education is as valuable for adults as it is for children, Nappier pointed out that beginning at a young age will "yield a solid return, for individuals, their families and their communities."

The Treasurer has participated in school savings events in the past, and has worked as an effective catalyst for financial education programs in Connecticut. Given the continuing decline in the savings rate, and renewed interest in school savings programs by financial institutions in Connecticut, Nappier is stepping up efforts to urge more schools to promote the importance of saving to their students. A 2002 survey by the National Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, Nappier noted, found that 61% of parents say that parents and schools should share the responsibility for teaching children about financial education.