2012 Legislative Priorities

MTA Payroll Tax
This bill (S.6079 Martins/ A.8868 Abinanti) would add public libraries to list of entities exempt from MTA pay roll tax.  
*Status: Passed Senate 6/4/12, Referred to Assembly Ways and Means 6/4/12*

Library Card Info Distributed to Students
This bill (S.4174 Oppenheimer/A.8976 Reilly) would require school districts to disseminate informational materials about applications for public library cards to students if they are provided by their library.  
*Status: Reported and Committed to Finance 5/31/12, Passed Assembly 5/31/12*

BOCES-Libraries Internet Partnerships
This bill (S.1573 Oppenheimer/A.464 Gunther) would authorize BOCES to contract with public libraries or library systems for internet services.  
*Status: Moved to Senate Floor 5/2/12, Referred to Assembly Education 1/4/12*
Replaced by bill (S.7014 Flanagan / A.10147 Nolan) would authorize BOCES to enter into contracts with public libraries or library systems for any available services.  
*Status: Passed Senate 6/4/12, Referred to Assembly Education 6/4/12*

NYS Comprehensive Information System
The bill (S.3297 DeFrancisco/A.4997 Russell) would authorize the state library to coordinate the bulk purchase of electronic resources like databases for state agencies, libraries and other governmental entities that would save the state and local government’s money.  
*Status: passed Senate 2/7/12, Amended and Recommitted to Assembly Libraries and Education Technology 2/16/12*

Digital Literacy
This bill (S.6479 Farley/A.9318 Reilly) would allow schools to offer instruction in digital literacy in grades k-12. Digital literacy entails the skills needed to use technology, the internet and information in the 21st century.  
*Status:Awaiting Floor Senate Floor Vote 6/4/12, Referred to Assembly Education 2/16/12*

Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research
This bill (S.7046 Marcellino/A.9162 Hevesi) would require publicly funded research that has been submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals to be made available online by the state agencies that underwrite such research.  
*Status: Awaiting Senate Floor Vote 5/18/12, Awaiting Assembly Floor Vote 5/15/12*

System Funding Flexibility Bills
Due to the complexity of this issue, the original bill (S.6479 Farley) has been divided into the following components.

S.7237 Farley - in regard to consolidating aid programs.  
*Status: Referred to Senate Finance 6/5/12, No Assembly Sponsor*

S.7238 Farley / A.10346 Reilly - in regard to flexibility in light of reduced appropriations.  
*Status: Referred to Senate Finance 6/5/12, Referred Assembly Ways and Means 5/31/12*

S.7239 Farley / A.10347 Reilly - in regard to eliminating the disincentive for system mergers.  
*Status: Referred to Senate Finance 6/5/12, Referred Assembly Ways and Means 5/31/12*

Updates June 6, 2012