



Equitable Access for All New Yorkers: NYLA 2018 Legislative Agenda

Equitable Access to School Libraries and Librarians

Background:

- NYS youngest learners are denied access to quality school libraries staffed by certified School Library Media Specialists; secondary school students – particularly those in NYC – are denied access through loopholes in SED Regulations.
- Students suffer from lack of instruction in information sciences; the inability to properly analyze the source and quality of information leaves students unprepared for post-secondary instruction.

Impact:

- Passing this bill would help ensure that all students are college-ready, lead to more students successfully pursuing graduate studies, and provide better-informed civic discourse.

Access to Publicly-Funded Research

Background:

- NYS law fails to provide the public with access to scientific and scholarly research funded with state dollars. This legislation requires New York State funded research published in peer-reviewed journals be made available online by the state agencies that underwrite such research.

Impact:

- This bill would simply bring NYS in-line with the federal standards employed by the National Institute of Health and NASA, as well as the State of California.

Universal Access to the Library Construction Aid Program

Background:

- NYS law disadvantages small and rural communities in need of capital improvements with often-insurmountable matching requirements to access the library construction aid program. This legislation would maintain state oversight of library capital funding, while providing discretion to public library systems to modify the matching thresholds for library construction aid projects.

Impact:

- This legislation removes the economic roadblock small and rural libraries too often face when considering critically-needed capital improvements.