



## **NYLA 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **Expand Access to School Libraries and Librarians**

**S.3931 Farley/A.6784-A Solages**

#### **Background:**

- Currently, elementary schools are not required to staff a certified School Library Media Specialist. Secondary schools are only required to do so in Commissioner's Education Regulations, not by state statute. Many school districts disregard the Commissioner's regulations; the NYC Department of Education previously sought a waiver from this requirement.
- Students with access to school libraries staffed by certified School Library Media Specialists consistently score 15-20% higher in English Language Arts tests by the fourth grade according to a study conducted at Syracuse University.

#### **Impact:**

- Passing this bill would ensure that all students, K-12, have access to a school library staffed by a certified school librarian. Having access to a certified school librarian would ensure students have equitable opportunities to develop strong digital literacy, critical thinking and information literacy skills regardless of economic status or school.

### **Taxpayer Access to Publicly-Funded Research**

**S.3952 Farley / A.1878 Hevesi**

#### **Background:**

- 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. This bill would bring NYS in line with the federal standards employed by the National Institute of Health and the State of California.
- Currently, when publically-funded research is published in peer-reviewed journals, libraries must expend public dollars for public and scholarly access.

#### **Impact:**

- This bill would eliminate an area of double taxation by making taxpayer-funded scholarly research available after one year. Currently, private companies force libraries to expend tax dollars for access to research that has already been publicly-funded. This standard would follow the federal model.

### **Permit Collaborative Capital Improvements for Small & Rural Libraries**    **S.6651 Farley / A.9240 Abinanti**

#### **Background:**

- This legislation would permit small and rural libraries to secure financing through the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) for desperately-needed capital improvements by pooling projects together through the New York Library Association (NYLA). This measure would help to address an estimated \$2.2B in statewide capital improvement needs for smaller libraries.
- Many aging, local libraries are forced to defer basic infrastructure needs because their project costs do not reach DASNY's minimum bonding threshold. Allowing NYLA to aggregate small projects will create cost efficiencies, enhance collaborative planning, and help libraries address aging infrastructure.

#### **Impact:**

- If local libraries were permitted to partner and aggregate smaller infrastructure projects to meet DASNY's bonding threshold, the sharing of fixed costs would allow these projects to move forward.
- This legislation is analogous to existing authority for members of the New York State Rehabilitation Association and NYSARC, Inc.