



2022 Policy Initiatives

Updated 2/23/2022

Book Fair Tax Exemption

This bill would make books, magazines, pamphlets and other items sold at school sponsored book fairs exempt from sales tax.

A861 (Cahill)

Association Library Retirement Opt-In Option

This bill would allow association libraries that meet certain criteria the ability to join the New York State Retirement System upon approval of their board.

S5179(Palumbo)/A5842(Thiele)

School Library Facility Modernization

The current regulation that defines a school library facility has not been updated in over twenty years.

This proposal would address the antiquated metrics within NY-CRR 91.1 and insert characteristics associated with a successful, 21st century school library.

S6053 (Kaplan)/A6339 (Jensen)

Permanent Reduction in Petition Signature Requirements

NYLA is seeking a decrease in the number of signatures needed for 414 and school district library elections.

Status: Proposal pending

Media Literacy in New York State

Media Literacy Professional Development

This bill would require teachers and certified school librarians to receive professional development related to media literacy.

S8213(Ryan)/A6153A(Rosenthal)

Expand Access to Library Media Specialists

This bill would require, based on student population and other criteria, that each school have access to a library media specialist.

S8212(Ryan)/A6225A(Rosenthal)

Creation of Media Literacy Advisory Group

This bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to appoint a Media Literacy Advisory Committee tasked to study media literacy in New York State. The group would also be responsible for distributing resources on the topic.

S8214(Ryan)/A6142A(Rosenthal)

Provide Media Literacy Standards for our Students

This bill would direct the Education Department to develop media literacy standards in New York State. Information would reflect appropriate age development K-12.

S8215(Ryan)/A8222(Rosenthal)

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The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084

518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX

info@nyla.org

www.nyla.org

A861 (Cahill)

An act to amend the tax law, in relation to granting a sales and compensating use tax exemption for goods sold at school book fairs

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this bill would allow items such as books, science kits and scholastic posters sold at a book fair to be purchased without sales tax. To be eligible for the tax exemption status, the event must be hosted by a group which supports school activities such as a parent-teacher association or “friends of the library”.

The primary customer at a school book fair is a child below the age of 12. Often, these children are given a nominal amount of cash to purchase items of their choice. With a variety of scholastic items to choose from – ranging from chapter books to DIY project kits – these fairs offer those attending an opportunity to purchase items they otherwise may not have access to. Children wishing to purchase a book or a placeholder for their favorite novel should not be required to consider tax before heading to the register and potentially not take home an item that enhances their relationship with literature or sciences.

For these reasons, the New York Library Association urges the legislature to pass A861, to exempt items sold of book fairs of their sales tax.

For additional information, please contact Briana McNamee at the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.



S5179 (Palumbo) / A5824 (Thiele)

An act to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to participation by free association libraries in the New York state and local employees' retirement system

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this bill would allow certain association libraries, who currently are ineligible, to participate in the State retirement system.

Public libraries in New York generally operate under one of four types of governance: municipal, school district, special district, and free association. While association libraries are subject to the same rights and responsibilities under the State's education law there is one glaring gap: the inconsistencies of eligibility to retirement benefits.

Municipal, school district and special district libraries all have retirement system options either due to their relationship with their local government and community or their charter as approved by the state. There are several association libraries that may offer retirement benefits through the state's system but those were established through individual legislative act.

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of association libraries who are not eligible for retirement through New York. As a result, many committed and talented library staff struggle to consider their life after they leave their library upon retirement. This also results in challenges to recruit and hire staff who upon applying must consider not only salary but benefits as well.

Permitting the participation by the remaining association libraries in the retirement system will provide equitable access to the importance benefits that we know as retirement and ensures that high quality library services for citizens in all parts of the State can continue at the hands of talented library staff.

For these reasons, the New York Library Association urges the legislature to pass S5179/A5824.

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S8213 (Ryan) / A 6153A (Rosenthal)

An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring teachers and library media specialists to complete professional development related to media literacy education

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this bill would require teachers and certified school librarians to receive professional development related to media literacy. The tiered training, 5 hours for teachers and 15 hours for librarians, would be deducted from the required 100 hours required by education law.

Our school's teachers and librarians have a responsibility to provide a comprehensive education to students, in a safe, welcoming, and unbiased environment. With a growing dependence on technology and social media, educators must ensure students have the ability to identify, analyze and use the information they receive outside the classroom safely. This act is known as media literacy. Media literacy is a broad term which encompasses the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create and act using all forms of communication and provides individuals with the foundational skills that are required to be a digital citizen.

By including media literacy as a topic within the existing PD mandate, we are ensuring our educators have the tools and resources needed to understand the constantly changing needs of our students in the classroom and digital world.

For these reasons, the New York Library Association urges the legislature to pass S8213/A6153A.

For additional information, please contact Briana McNamee at the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.



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S8212 (Ryan) / A 6225A (Rosenthal)

An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring a school library media specialist in each elementary, intermediate, middle, junior high and senior high school

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted this bill would require, based on student population and other specified criteria, that each school have access to a library media specialist.

Currently, elementary schools are not required to be staffed by a certified library media specialist, while secondary schools are only required to do so by Commissioner's Education Regulations. Due to the absence in law, children and education professionals such as teachers and administrators across the state do not have access to a certified librarian to assist with curriculum, information literacy resources and professional development.

School librarians prepare students for success in college, careers, and civic engagement by teaching skills related to information literacy, digital literacy, media literacy, and visual literacy. In addition, they assist their colleagues with instructional design, classroom technology integration and serve as topic-experts in professional development.

This legislation provides the opportunity for school districts to hire a certified library media specialist that reflects their individual needs. Furthermore, it allows school administration operational latitude in unique circumstances such as professional shortages.

For these reasons, the New York Library Association urges the legislature to pass S8213/A6153A.

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S8214 (Ryan) / A 6142A (Rosenthal)

An act to direct the commissioner of education to appoint a media literacy advisory group to study the teaching of media literacy

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to appoint a Media Literacy Advisory Committee to study the teaching of media literacy across New York State. The assembled group would include staff from school library systems, school libraries and individuals from high education institutions that offer information studies programs.

Once formed, the Committee would be responsible not only for surveying each school district to determine its practices and availability of media literacy resources but also, providing recommendations and tools to support digital citizenship, media literacy, and internet safety.

The formation of this Committee would be beneficial to understand the current practices within our State in regard to media literacy. With the addition of the web-based resource centers, our schools could more easily introduce measures and tools to enhance their media literacy curriculum.

For these reasons, the New York Library Association urges the legislature to pass S8213/A6153A.

For additional information, please contact Briana McNamee at the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.



S8215 (Ryan) / A 8222 (Rosenthal)

An act to amend the education law, in relation to creating a set of media literacy standards for students in grades kindergarten through twelve

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation.

If enacted, this legislation would direct the State Education Department to develop a set of media literacy standards and ensure media literacy education is being provided to students across New York State. Such standards will ensure that all students, grades K-12, are receiving broad media literacy education that is inclusive of the use of technology and social media, responsible online behavior, proper use of online resources for research, curating a positive digital footprint, internet safety, civility and more.

Media literacy is a comprehensive term that encompasses an individual's ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication. These five foundational skills result in an individual being a responsible and safe digital citizen.

There has never been a time in our history where individuals have had access to the amount of information that we do today. This media, whether it is print, art, digital or other medium such as videography, is processed differently by each individual. The skills, experiences and competencies that are reflected in the standards sought by S8215/A8222 are vital in individuals of all ages to be stewards of information.

Media literacy is essential. As such, the New York Library Association and its member urge you to pass S8215/A8222, sponsored by Senator Ryan & Assemblymember Rosenthal.

For additional information, please contact Briana McNamee at the New York Library Association at 518.432.6952.



State Library Aid Budget Request : \$123.1M

LIBRARY AID PROGRAM:

Funds that are allocated each year within the New York State budget for use by each library type and system. State aid supports interlibrary loan, delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation, and other resource sharing activities.

WHERE WE WERE:

- State Library Aid in the FY2021-22 enacted budget was \$94.1M.
- Nominal increases to State Aid had been given to libraries leading up to 2000.
- A steady decline occurred until 2007 when for the first and only time - Library Aid was fully funded under Education Law.
- New York libraries have struggled to secure adequate increases in funding for the last 14 years.

WHERE WE ARE:

- New York State Education Law calls for \$102.6M in State Library Aid for FY 2021-2022.
- More than \$125M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.
- Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.
- Libraries have incurred thousands of dollars of expenditures to operate safely during the on-going pandemic.

WHERE WE SHOULD BE:

- Increased aid will allow for expanded collections via subscriptions and e-titles, the retention of new staff and creation of comprehensive programming for beginners and advanced learners.
- An increase in aid will assist communities by offsetting future local tax levy increases.
- If fully funded, libraries and their staff can expand their reach to ensure all New Yorkers are confident, digital stewards through media literacy programs.

IN YOUR DISTRICT:





Library Construction Aid Budget Request : \$45M

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AID PROGRAM:

Funds that are allocated annually in the State Budget for the use of public libraries and systems for construction, renovation, rehabilitation, or acquisition of new space. Other eligible or unique projects include broadband installation, emergency generators and security systems.

WHERE WE WERE:

- In 2021, an allocation of \$34 million was made to the Library Construction Aid Program.
- Last year’s investment came in the wake of a \$20 million reduction in 2020.

WHERE WE ARE:

- New York State’s public library buildings are rapidly aging.
Over half of our state’s libraries are over 60 years old.
- The most recent available data provided by the New York State Education Department documents an existing \$1.5B in capital needs statewide.

WHERE WE SHOULD BE:

- Increased investment would allow public libraries to maintain and develop their physical infrastructure to ensure they are safe, accessible, and sustainable for everyone.
- Expanded budgets mean expanded spaces and possibilities that promote literacy, creativity, civic engagement and thriving communities.

IN YOUR DISTRICT:



Budget Request

Increase Per Pupil Rate for Library Materials Aid

What is instructional materials aid?

- Instructional materials aids include library materials, textbook, software, and hardware aid.
- These aids are critical for reducing inequitable access to educational technology.
- These aids are not reimbursement based, but allocational based on a certain amount per pupil.

What is library materials aid used for?

School library materials eligible for reimbursement include audio/visual materials and printed materials that meet the following criteria are:

- Catalogued and processed as part of the school library or media center for use by elementary and/or secondary school children and teachers
- Expected to last more than one year after use
- Are ineligible for aid as textbooks

Examples of materials eligible for aid include:

Paperback books	Hardcover Books	Periodicals
Pamphlets	Musical Scores	Videos
Audio Recordings	Maps/Globes	Charts

History of LMA

There were moderate increases to Library Materials Aid during the first 5 years of its inception. Unfortunately, aid has not been increased since 2007.

Timeline: 1994 (\$2) ➡ 1995 (\$4) ➡ 1998 (\$6) ➡ 2007 (\$6.25)

Current LMA

- Currently, up to \$6.25 per student attending public or nonpublic schools within a school district's boundaries can be reimbursed by the State.
- Aid is calculated by multiplying \$6.25 by the number of enrolled pupils.

NYLA Budget Request

- District costs for library materials have increased substantially over this time.
- Updating the per pupil allocation for each of the instructional materials aids, including library materials, to reflect inflation would benefit students in and out of the classroom.
- Increase per pupil rate to reflect Board of Regents state aid proposal from \$6.25 ➡ \$8.30

