



State Library Aid Budget Request : \$123.1M

- New York State Education Law contemplates State Library Aid of \$102.6M for FY 2020-2021.
- State Library Aid in the FY2020-21 enacted budget was \$94.1M. An additional 20% has been withheld due to the ongoing pandemic.
- The Governor proposed cutting Library Aid an additional 7.5% in his Executive Budget.
- More than \$125M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.
- Increased aid is needed to support the foundational framework of New York State libraries, improving the lives of residents of all ages, abilities, and economic status.
- Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.
- Information inequality plagues vulnerable, marginalized, and historically oppressed populations.
- According to a survey by the New York Library Association, libraries have incurred, on average, more than \$6,500 in COVID-related expenditures. (September 2020)

Reminders

Library usage and demand for services are surging statewide.

Libraries are a core component of our state's educational infrastructure.

Libraries are critical for access and equality.

Library systems are models of shared services.

For every state dollar invested in libraries, they return \$7 to their community.

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Library Construction Aid Budget Request : \$45M

- Funding for the Program was stagnant for nearly a decade until recent investment by the Legislature in 2018. However, in 2020 it was slashed by \$20M.
- In January 2021, the Governor proposed \$14M for the Program.
- Increased investment is needed to maintain and develop the physical infrastructure of New York State's libraries, in order to ensure a safe, accessible and sustainable environment for the future.
- The most recent available data provided by the New York State Education Department's Division of Library Development (DLD) articulates an existing \$1.5B in capital needs statewide.
- Over half of New York's libraries are over 60 years old.
- The Program provides an immediate and efficient return on investment while boosting local economies; since 2007, state investment has leveraged more than \$500M in local funding – a 5:1 return.

Reminders

New York State's public libraries are rapidly aging.

Public libraries require capital investment to accommodate high-speed broadband infrastructure.

Public libraries desperately require energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades.

Public library capital needs have been comparatively underfunded.

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School Library Materials Aid

Consolidation of Expense-Based Aid Programs

- The Executive Budget includes a proposal to consolidate multiple expense-based and categorical aids, into a new “Services Aid” category for 2021-2022.
- Amongst the eleven categories are Instructional Materials that include textbooks, software, computer hardware and library materials.
- Other prominent aid categories included are Transportation Aid & BOCES Aid.
- School library materials include audio, visual and printed materials such as hard cover and paperback books, recordings, charts and videos.
- Library Materials Aid (LMA) is part of State formula aid and is intended to supplement local funds budgeted for school library program support.
- Under current law, library materials may be purchased and reimbursed to a school district at the rate of \$6.25 per pupil. The rate was last increased 14 years ago.
- Once established, the new Services Aid would be reduced by \$693 million.
- Without the dedicated funding provided by Library Materials Aid, school libraries will be unable to maintain their current collections curated to reflect the diverse literacy needs of their students.

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**New York State Aid to Libraries
 1991 through 2020
 January 27, 2021**

State Fiscal Year	Library Aid Funding in Ed. Law (in millions)	Actual Library Aid Funding Level (in millions)	NOTES
1991/92	\$76	\$68.3	\$76 million in Ed. Law, minus 10.57%
1992/93	\$81.8	\$68.3	\$81.8 million in Ed. Law, minus 16.5 %
1993/94	\$88.3	\$73.3	\$88.3 million in Ed. Law, minus 18.5 % plus transition aid
1994/95	\$88.3	\$81.5	\$88.3 million in Ed. Law, minus 7.50 % plus transition aid
1995/96	\$88.4	\$81.5	\$88.4 million in Ed. Law, minus 7.50% plus transition aid
1996/97	\$88.5	\$82	\$88.5 million in Ed. Law, minus 7.50% plus transition aid. (Plus a \$2 million one shot for the Electronic Doorway Library program for total of \$84 million.)
1997/98	\$88.5	\$82.8	\$88.5 million in Ed. Law, minus 6 % plus transition aid. (Plus a \$2 million one shot for the Electronic Doorway Library program for total of \$84.8 million.)
1998/99	\$88.5	\$88.5	Full funding of Ed. Law as amended by Chapter 917
1999/00	\$88.9	\$88.9	Full funding of Ed. Law as amended by Chapter 917 and Chapter 528 (Center for Jewish History)
2000/01	\$88.9	\$93.9	Full funding of Ed. Law (plus \$5 million added as a one-shot for total of \$93.9 million.)
2001/02	\$88.9	\$88.9	Full funding of Ed. Law
2002/03	\$91.3	\$90.4	\$91.3 million in Ed. Law (using 2000 Census for first time). Executive and Legislature direct that library aid be funded at same levels as 2001/02 regardless of Ed. Law. (plus \$1.5 million added as one shot by Assembly from 2001/02 special funds for construction and technology for total of \$90.4 million.)
2003/04	\$91.3	\$88.9	\$91.3 million in Ed. Law. Executive proposed a 15% cut from 2002/03 level of \$88.9 million or \$13.3 million cut. Legislature directed that library aid be funded at same levels as 2002/03 regardless of Ed. Law. Executive vetoed and Legislature successfully overrode veto. Special funds of \$3 million for The New York Public Library were cut 15%, a loss of \$450,000.
2004/05	\$91.3	\$84.422	\$91.3 million in Ed. Law. Executive proposed a 5% cut from 2003/04 level of \$88.9 million, or \$4.478 million. This proposal returned library aid to 1997/98 funding levels. Legislature directed that Library aid be funded at the same level as 2003/04 regardless of Ed. Law (\$88.9 m). Executive vetoed. Assembly attempt to override veto in September 2004 failed. (plus \$1.4 million added as a one shot by Assembly Republicans from Executive funds for selected libraries and systems for total of \$85.8).
2005/06	\$91.5	\$88.9	\$91.5 million in Ed. Law (not including NYPL CUNY and SIBL). Executive and

			Legislature directed that library aid be funded at the same levels as 2002/03 regardless of Ed. Law (\$88.9 m). Special funds for The New York Public Library CUNY and SIBL now statutory with passage of Part O of Chapter 57 of Laws of 2005.
2006/07	\$91.6	\$95	\$91.6 million in Ed. Law (not including NYPL CUNY and SIBL). Full funding of Ed. Law except NYPL CUNY and SIBL still at 2003/04 level. (Plus \$300,000 hold harmless for all programs, \$3 million in one time formula funding for library systems.)
2007/08	\$94.7	\$102.8	\$94.7 million in Ed. Law (Ed. Law amended to include NYPL CUNY \$2 m and SIBL \$1m). Full funding of Ed. Law (Plus \$275,000 hold harmless for all programs, \$8 million in one time formula funding for library systems.)
2008/09	\$94.7	\$99.9	\$94.7 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$100.16 million in April 2008 results in across the board reductions to Ed Law, plus hold harmless for all programs, plus one-time formula funding of \$8 million for library systems. Reflects 2% cut from 2007/08. An additional mid-year cut of \$874,020 in August 2008 reduced the 2008/09 appropriation further to \$99.9 million, or total 2.8% cut from 2007/2008.
2009/10	\$93.9	\$86.8	\$93.9 million in Ed. Law (Ed Law 273-a amended to eliminate general funds of \$800,000 annually for public library construction grants). Appropriation of \$91.1 million in April 2009 results in across the board reductions to Ed Law, plus hold harmless for all programs, plus one-time formula funding of \$8 million for library systems. Reflects 8.8 % cut from 2008/2009. Additional Mid-year cut of \$5.1 million in December 2009 reduces 2009/10 appropriation further to \$86.8, or total 13 percent cut from 2008/2009.
2010/11	\$93.9	\$83.948	\$93.9 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$84.458 million in June 2010. Executive vetoed Article 7 bill. In August 2010, the Executive and Legislature directed a further reduction of \$510,000 from Aid to Libraries payments subsequent to September 15 for use for the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program (FMAP) - \$83.948 million. Legislature and Executive passed new Article 7 bill in February 2011. These actions result in across the board reductions to Ed Law, plus hold harmless for all programs, plus one-time formula funding of \$8 million for library systems. Overall, a 3.3 % cut from 2009/10 appropriation or a \$2.85 million reduction.
2011/12	\$101.3	\$79	\$101.3 million in Ed Law. Appropriation of \$79.012 million on March 31, 2011. Article 7 bill amended Ed Law 273 (12) to make Supplementary formula funding for library systems permanent in Education Law; and provided for across the board reductions of 21.75% after application of hold harmless provisions. Overall, a 6.42% cut from 2010/11 appropriation.
2012/13	\$102.4	\$81.6	\$102.4 million in Ed Law (Using 2010 Census for the first time). Appropriation of \$81.627 million on March 30, 2012 (includes \$79.012 million, plus additional legislative appropriation of \$2.615 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 20.04% after application of hold harmless provisions. Overall, a 3.28% increase from 2011/2012 appropriation. \$81.6 million does not include the additional \$1.3 million legislative appropriation for MTA payroll tax offset for libraries.
2013/14	\$102.4	\$85.627	\$102.4 million in Ed Law. Appropriation of \$85.627 million on March 28, 2013 (includes \$81.627 million, plus additional legislative appropriation of \$4 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 16.12 % after application of hold harmless provisions. Overall, a 4.88% increase from the 2012/2013 appropriation. \$85.627 million does not include the additional \$1.3 million legislative appropriation for MTA payroll tax offset for libraries.

2014/15	\$102.6	\$86.627	\$102.6 million in Ed Law. Appropriation of \$86.627 million on March 31, 2014 (includes \$81.627 million, plus additional legislative appropriation of \$5 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 15.23% after application of hold harmless provisions. Overall, a 1.2% increase from the 2013/2014 appropriation. \$86.627 million does not include the additional \$1.3 million legislative appropriation for MTA payroll tax offset for libraries.
2015/16	\$102.6	\$91.627	\$102.6 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$91.627 million on March 31, 2015 (includes \$86.627 million, plus additional legislative appropriation of \$5 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 10.3% after application of hold harmless provisions. Overall, a 5.7% increase from the 2014/2015 appropriation. \$91.627 million does not include the additional \$1.3 million legislative appropriation for MTA payroll tax offset for libraries.
2016/17	\$102.6	\$95.627	\$102.6 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$95.627 million on April 1, 2016 (includes \$91.627 million plus additional legislative appropriation of \$4 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 6.4% after application of hold harmless provisions. Overall, a 4.3% increase from the 2015/2016 appropriation. \$95.627 million does not include the additional \$1.3 million legislative appropriation for MTA payroll tax offset for libraries.
2017/18	\$102.6	\$95.627	\$102.6 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$95.627 million on April 9, 2017 (includes \$91.627 million plus additional legislative appropriation of \$4 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 6.38% after application of hold harmless provisions.
2018/19	\$102.6	\$96.627	\$102.6 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$96.627 million on March 30, 2018 (includes \$91.627 million plus additional legislative appropriation of \$5 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 5.445% after application of hold harmless provisions.
2019/2020	\$102.6	\$96.627	\$102.6 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$96.627 million on April 1, 2019 (includes \$91.627 million plus additional legislative appropriation of \$5 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions of 5.408% after application of hold harmless provisions.
2020/2021	\$102.6	\$94.127*	\$102.6 million in Ed. Law. Appropriation of \$94.127 million on April 1, 2020 (includes \$91.627 million plus additional legislative appropriation of \$2.5 million). Article 7 provided for across the board reductions after application of hold harmless provisions. <i>*Due to COVID-19 pandemic and deficit, with authority granted by the Legislature, the State continues to withhold 20% of Library Aid payments. As of January 27, a FY20/21 State Budget has not been finalized and the final Library Aid appropriation amount for FY20/21 is not yet determined.</i>

Source: New York State Library, Division of Library Development, January 27, 2021



Fiscal Year	Funding Level	Notes
1983/84	\$3 million	First time state funding provided in Ed. Law for public library construction program, provided for one year.
1984/85	\$0	Regents proposed funding for construction, nothing passed.
1985/86	\$2 million	Provided in Ed. Law for one year.
1986-1990	\$0	Regents proposed funding for construction, nothing passed.
1990/91	\$0	Chapter 917 of the Laws of 1990 passed, amending Education Law, providing \$300,000 in general funds for construction for 1992/93 and \$800,000 for 1993/94.
1991/92	\$0	No provisions for construction in Ed. Law.
1992/93	\$250,500	\$300,000 in Ed. Law, minus 16.5 %
1993/94	\$652,000	\$800,000 in Ed. Law, minus 18.5 %
1994/95	\$740,000	\$800,000 in Ed. Law, minus 7.50 %; program annualized in Education Law, Chapter 170 of the Laws of 1994.
1995/96	\$740,000	\$800,000 in Ed. Law, minus 7.50%
1996/97	\$740,000	\$800,000 in Ed. Law, minus 7.50%
1997/98	\$752,000	\$800,000 in Ed. Law, minus 6 %
1998/99	\$800,000	Full funding of Education Law as amended by Chapter 917
1999/00	\$800,000	Full funding of Education Law
2000/01	\$800,000	Full funding, plus \$1,027,040 "one-time" for construction.
2001/02	\$800,000	Full funding for construction in Ed. Law.
2002/03	\$800,000	Full funding for construction in Ed. Law. \$1 million "one-time" by Assembly from 2001/02 special funds for construction to libraries only (not systems).
2003/04	\$800,000	Full funding for construction in Ed. Law. Chapter 572 of the Laws of 2003 amends Education Law for construction program.
2004/05	\$761,716	\$800,000 in Ed. Law., minus 4.79%
2005/06	\$800,000	Full funding of Ed. Law.
2006/07	\$14.8 million	Full funding of \$800,000 in Ed. Law. \$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2007/08	\$14.8 million	Full funding of \$800,000 in Ed. Law. \$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2008/09	\$14.78 million	\$777,101 (\$800,000 in Ed. Law, minus 2.86%). \$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2009/10	\$14 million	Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2009 amends language specifying the amount of the annual appropriation from Education Law 273-a. \$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2010/11	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2011/12	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2012/13	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2013/14	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a

2014/15	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2015/16	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2016/17	\$19 million	\$19 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2017/18	\$24 million	\$24 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2018/19	\$34 million	\$34 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2019/20	\$34 million	\$34 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a
2020/21	\$14 million	\$14 million in one-time Capital Funds distributed according to Ed. Law 273-a

Source: New York State Library, Division of Library Development, January 27, 2021



2021 Policy Initiatives

Updated 2/22/2021

Media Literacy Curriculum Mandate

All children deserve a comprehensive education.

This proposal would require media literacy as curricula in K-12 and establish a certified media specialist as the preferred instructor.

Status: New.

Pending Introduction.

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.

Status: New.

Possible Amendment.

Pending Introduction.

Increased Access to the Library Construction

Program

Small and rural public libraries in dire need of capital improvements are disproportionately disadvantaged by the Public Library Construction Aid Program's requirements. Providing public library systems with greater discretion to aware capital grants will broaden opportunities to address our state's aging public libraries.

Status: New.

Possible Amendment.

Pending Introduction.

Access to E-Books

S2890 (May)

This bill would require that publishers who offer electronic books to the private market, also extend licenses to libraries within the State, without discrimination. Contracts would stipulate "reasonable terms" that would allow libraries across the state, and their patrons, to have equitable access to the content they seek.

Status: Former Priority.

Confirmed Assembly Sponsor.

Awaiting Bill Number.

Reduce Petition Requirements for Library Elections

S4430 (Ryan)/A5456 (Jean-Pierre)

The election of library trustees, and the petition for ballot access for some libraries, poses a health and safety issue for the 2021 cycle due to the pandemic.

This bill would reduce the required amount of signatures needed for petition purposes for 259 and school district library elections in 2021, to 25.

Status: New.

Assembly Education Committee Agenda 2/24.

Passed Senate Libraries Committee. Passed Senate (63/0).

Streamline & Modernize Library Program Requirements

The distribution of state funding for New York State's public libraries and library systems is governed by complicated formulas contained in the Education Law.

These technical amendments would be funding neutral and replace outdated provisions with new language, to consolidate and modernize programs and to streamline planning and reporting requirements to improve efficiency.

Status: New.

Department of Education Proposal.

Pending Number.

Training for Library Trustees

S4435 (May)

Library trustees play an important role in the success and long-term growth of their libraries. Their actions effect policy, personnel and finances.

Currently, the state does not require library trustees to obtain any formal training.

Passage of this bill would ensure that those choosing to serve their libraries as a trustee, have the comprehensive and necessary information to be successful.

Status: Former Priority.

Awaiting sponsorship in Assembly.

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Empire State Library Network (ESLN)

New York State has three different kinds of library systems, each of which has a different role to play in supporting knowledge infrastructure in New York State.

Public Library Systems help public libraries manage critical infrastructure and public services, School Library Systems do the same within public school systems, and the nine NY3Rs or 'Library Councils' design and administer services that connect academic libraries, public libraries, school libraries, hospital libraries, museum libraries, law libraries, archives, local historical societies, and other specialized knowledge organizations.

No institution can go about their business alone in 2021, and the boundaries by which we have traditionally differentiated these organizations have shifted substantially in the digital environment.

By designing services that bridge institutional types, Library Councils create cost savings and efficiencies for our regional members, while also building statewide opportunities for innovation through collaboration.

The Empire State Library Network supports...

- **Book and Material Delivery:** It is essential for libraries to share their resources with one another. The Empire Library Delivery Service moves almost 350,000 books between institutions every year, making interlibrary loans and shared resources cost-effectively, and ensuring that library materials get to the people that need them.
- **Software Development Services:** The councils invest in staff and resources to support the technologies libraries use to do their business. The councils develop, customize, and support software solutions for their member libraries.
- **Digital Libraries:** Individually and together, the councils have built and provided ongoing support for a series of inter-institutional platforms that provide access to New York's rich history. Some of these are: Empire Archival Discovery Collaborative, New York Historic Newspapers, New York Heritage, and Empire State Immersive Experience
- **Expert Services:** For example, legal, archival, human resources, health literacy, and disaster planning.
- **Continuing Education:** Keeping the skills and talents of our workforce up to date as the information landscape changes are incredibly important. Together, the councils offer dozens of learning opportunities for library workers every year.
- **Credible Health Resources:** The councils facilitate access to a network of skilled information professionals for hospital libraries statewide who provide timely and accurate health-related information and resources, directly impacting patient care and outcomes.

Regional councils leverage the purchasing power of our statewide network and tailor the implementation of services to the needs and practices of their local members. This builds an adaptable, equitable system capable of scaling attention and spending appropriately because of their mission and the way in which they are organized.

The Library Councils are one of New York's finest assets for supporting the operations of knowledge institutions in the 21st Century.



New York State's Public Library Systems

New York State has 23 public library systems that serve over 19 million people statewide.

There are 756 libraries with over 1,100 outlets, including branches, bookmobiles, and other community outlets. **The role of a public library system is to help connect libraries, strengthen local library services, and provide economies of scale through resource sharing and shared services.**

Public library systems were first created in the late 1950s when the State Legislature and Governor authorized the establishment of systems in Education Law. The State created library systems to help expand the resources of local libraries, enabling them to buy services and share resources cooperatively.

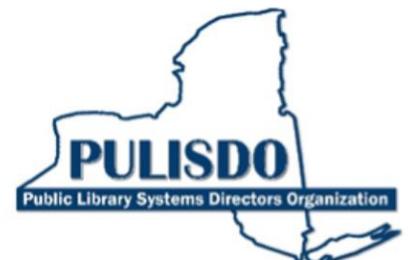
Since library systems were created, technology and information needs have changed and the emergence of libraries as important community centers and spaces have meant that library systems have evolved to keep pace with our users' needs.

Today, our public library systems help our members with:

- Support for the latest technologies including shared purchasing of e-books and other digital resources, database purchasing, library makerspaces, and hotspot lending
- Interlibrary loan and delivery of library materials statewide
- An automated catalog of library materials and IT services to member libraries
- Outreach services for persons with challenging conditions and life situations, underserved and unserved communities, and people who have difficulty reading, writing and speaking English
- Access to grants, such as the public library construction grant, and grant writing assistance to members
- Vital professional development and training for both library staff and trustees, especially for libraries with limited budgets
- Consulting services by professional librarians and staff for a variety of areas including library law, trustee and board development, library budgets, collection development, youth services, and human resources topics
- Guidance for our member libraries on youth and early literacy topics such as summer reading, programming, and collections

Public libraries continue to play a vital role in New Yorker's lives, whether it be a place to get library books, use the internet, search and apply for a job, a place to get vital and factual information from a professional librarian, or to take part in a virtual library program.

Public library systems continue to work hard behind the scenes to help support and strengthen our great public libraries in all that they do.





New York's School Library Systems

Innovation, Collaboration, & Education. Since 1985

Empowering New York's School Librarians



Established in 1985, the 40 School Library Systems of New York State provide equity, access, and learning opportunities to the 4,236 school libraries serving over 3.2 million students. School Library Systems are one of the three types of New York State-funded library systems.

Each BOCES and Big Five city has a School Library System that provides leadership, technical services, resources, and professional development among other services.



As a program unique to New York, School Library Systems are seen as a national model for empowering school librarians and maximizing the investment in critical school library programs.

This year **the innovative resources and expertise provided by systems have been critical to the success of school libraries** pivoting to new service models during the pandemic.



The NYC SLS developed a **Translation of Practice for School Libraries** that provided leadership on shifting to digital library services and programs.

School libraries have leveraged resources from their systems including **instructional guides**, resource lists, and safety sheets.



School Library Systems provide **equity for students in member school libraries through collaborative purchasing** programs and regional access to digital collections secured through consortium pricing and made available to all public and non-public member schools.

Resource sharing between schools made possible by School Library System facilitated interlibrary loan saved districts over \$4.85 million last year.



School librarians and teachers throughout the state are supported through **the professional development and other educational programs** of the School Library Systems.

Libraries have provided guidance on information literacy instruction based on the **Empire State Information Fluency Continuum** developed by School Library Systems and endorsed by



Memorandum of Support

S4430 (Ryan) / A5456 (Jean-Pierre)

An act to amend the education law, in relation to library and school district petitioning; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

Libraries hold elections for multiple purposes including budget approval and/or to designate their board of trustees. For budget referenda and candidacy, petitions must be distributed and collected.

Under current education law, petition requirements range from a percentile of the population to a set numerical standard. For example, to be placed on a municipal ballot, libraries must collect signatures in the amount equal to or exceeding 10% of the number of votes cast in the municipality in the last gubernatorial election. These requirements are a very heavy burden and pose significant health and safety concerns due to the ongoing pandemic.

By reducing the number of signatures needed for petitions for the remaining library elections in 2021, the potential exposure and spread of the coronavirus can be reduced.

For these reasons, NYLA strongly supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

For addition information, please contact Briana McNamee, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy at 518-432-6952.



MEDIA

LITERATE

VS

ILLITERATE

SKILLS

Relies on empirical data to drive decisions and respects the role of science and expertise

Actively seeks multiple sources of information to fill gaps in knowledge and consider differing viewpoints

Is able to differentiate between opinion and fact and supports personal opinion with fact-based evidence

Draws unsupported conclusions from anecdotal data and gives too much credence to non-expert opinions

Has limited information consumption habits (echo chamber) and is unable to independently verify or seek additional information

COMPETENCIES

Understands the nuances of correlated events without confusing correlation for causation and avoids the pitfalls of patternicity thinking

Has awareness of personal bias and how it shapes the interpretation of information

Identifies and confirms the authority and expertise of media

Inaccurately conflates correlation with causation or invents patterns where none exist

Fails to acknowledge personal bias or falls prey to manipulative or constructed disinformation

CIVIC ACTION

Is able to engage in issue based debate while continuing to respect the people behind other viewpoints

Evaluates, considers, and attempts to verify information before resharing on social networks

Considers historical, social, and cultural implications of information

During debate or when questioned is more likely to engage in personal attacks rather than addressing the issue

Re-shares information on social networks without verification, consideration, or evaluation and bases decisions to do so on emotion rather than facts

