



Empire State Library Network

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April 30, 2021

Honorable Kimberly Jean-Pierre
640 West Montauk Highway
Lindenhurst, NY 11757-5538

Dear Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre:

The Empire State Library Network thanks you for your support during the budget negotiations. We are excited to learn you have introduced bill A7021 in the Assembly as Chair of the Committee on Library and Educational Technology. This bill is incredibly important to the multi-type library systems (Library Councils) in order to streamline our funding lines. This will amend §273 and §273-a in State Education Law.

The distribution of state funding for library systems is governed by complicated and varying formulas contained in the Education Law. The Library Councils were chartered over 50 years ago and these formulas governing our system aid have not been updated since and do not reflect the way we provide services to our member libraries, library systems, and small repositories.

These technical amendments are funding-neutral and replace outdated provisions with new language. If passed, the amendment will consolidate our general aid with our RBDB (technology funding). The result will be a more efficient process for planning and budgeting as well as modernizing our reporting process to the state library.

The changes to State Education Law 273 are long overdue and we salute you Assemblywoman for taking on the charge for us.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Knab
Chair, Empire State Library Network

Executive Director
Western New York Library Resources Council
Airport Commerce Park East
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May 17, 2021

Honorable Sean Ryan
60 Lakefront Boulevard, Suite 125,
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Senator Ryan,

The Empire State Library Network appreciates all you have done in securing restoration of funding for New York's library systems and in particular the Library Councils. We know you work tirelessly on our behalf and we could not have a better champion. We are writing with support for S6511 that will amend §273 and §273-a in State Education Law which will streamline and modernize our funding and reporting requirements.

As you have learned from us over the years, we have four funding streams in state education law, with three different fiscal years and varying formulas. By introducing these amendments, you will allow Library Councils to combine two of those funding streams – general aid and RBDB (technology) – making it more efficient for planning. The Library Councils were chartered over 50 years ago and these formulas governing our system aid have not been updated since and do not reflect the way we provide services to our member libraries, library systems, and small repositories.

We hope you will consider our request and look forward to seeing you soon to assist us in making even greater strides next year.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Knab
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