Policy Initiatives
Updated July 1, 2021

Streamline & Modernize Library Program Requirements
S6511 (Ryan) / A7021 (Jean-Pierre)
Status: Passed Senate & Assembly.
Awaiting delivery to Governor.

These technical amendments replace outdated provisions with new language to consolidate and modernize programs and, streamline planning and reporting requirements to improve efficiency.

Training for Library Trustees
S4435B (May) / A6121B (Jean-Pierre)
Status: Passed Senate & Assembly.
Awaiting delivery to Governor.

If enacted, this bill would ensure that those choosing to serve their libraries as a trustee have comprehensive training, reflective of their communities, each year.

Increased Access to the Library Construction Program
S5753A (Ryan) / A7060A (Jean-Pierre)
Status: Passed Senate & Assembly.
Awaiting delivery to Governor.

If signed by the Governor, this bill would allow library systems, who are responsible for distributing the Program funds to their libraries, greater flexibility.

Access to E-Books
S2890B (May) / A5837B (Jean-Pierre)
Status: Passed Senate & Assembly.
Awaiting delivery to Governor.

This bill would require that publishers who offer electronic books to the private market, also extend licenses to libraries within the State, without discrimination.

Media Literacy in New York State
Status: No action taken in 2021.
Requires sponsorship in upper-house.

A6153A (Rosenthal)
This bill would require teachers and library media specialists to complete professional development related to media literacy education.

A6225A (Rosenthal)
This legislation would ensure that a school library media specialist is in each elementary, intermediate, middle, junior high and senior high school.

A6142A (Rosenthal)
If passed, the commissioner of education would be required to appoint a media literacy advisory group to study the teaching of media literacy in New York State.

Media Literacy Curriculum (Pending Introduction)
All children deserve a comprehensive education. This proposal would require media literacy as a curriculum in K-12 and establish a certified media specialist as the preferred instructor.

School Library Facility Modernization
S6053 (Kaplan) / A6339 (Jensen)
Status: No action taken in 2021.

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.