



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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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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