Equitable Access for All New Yorkers
NYLA 2019 Legislative Agenda

Equal Access to School Libraries and Librarians
A.2444 Solages / S.2421 Kaplan

Background
Current law fails to protect New York student rights to sound instruction in information sciences. 36% of primary and 26% of secondary schools have no school librarian. Studies in information fluency prepares students for college success, enhances career opportunities, and fosters community engagement.

Impact
This legislation provides a long-overdue guarantee that all students have access to a quality school library staffed by a certified NYS School Library Media Specialist.

Transparent Contracting with Educational Institutions

Background
Overreaching confidentiality clauses and strict nondisclosure provisions force taxpayer-funded educational institutions into adherence contracts with corporate vendors. These contracts may include exorbitant pricing structures, even when the accessed content is wholly funded with taxpayer dollars.

Impact
This legislation requires open, transparent contracting between educational institutions and corporate vendors of educational resources. Education will become more affordable, and information more accessible.

Universal Access to the Library Construction Aid Program

Background
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 award capital grants will broaden opportunities to address our state’s aging public libraries.

Impact
This legislation maintains robust state oversight of the Public Library Construction Aid Program while adding a 90/10 matching provision for qualifying capital projects.