



Support S.2421 (Kaplan) / A.2444 (Solages)

Requires a school library in each elementary and secondary school and employment of a certified school library media specialist

This legislation would ensure every NYS public school child have access to both school libraries and appropriate staff to foster their love for literacy and learning.

NYS PTA has long advocated on ‘Whole Child’ education, including access to literacy and library programming and services. Sadly, there are some NYS school children without access to any library services in their school buildings.

Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child’s education. Studies show that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. We strongly believe that every child must have access to in-school library services, staffed by dedicated professionals to help children grow their literacy skills. We continue to advocate for equitable and adequate state aid, including a substantial increase in foundation aid, which will support this work.

We also believe that all children should have an equal opportunity to develop to their fullest potential with life skills that include: digital, media, and informational literacy to evaluate content and use technology effectively; life and career competencies such as flexibility, time and project management, and self-direction; cultural awareness; leadership; and responsibility.

NYS PTA’s Pick a Reading Partner Program focuses on developing literacy skills. You can find more information here: <https://nyspta.org/home/programs/literacy/>.

For the aforementioned reasons, NYS PTA supports S.2421 (Kaplan)/A.2444 (Solages) and urges its enactment.