2021 Policy Initiatives
Updated 2/22/2021

Media Literacy Curriculum Mandate
All children deserve a comprehensive education. This proposal would require media literacy as curricula in K-12 and establish a certified media specialist as the preferred instructor.
Status: New.
Pending Introduction.

School Library Facility Modernization
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.
Status: New.
Possible Amendment.
Pending Introduction.

Increased Access to the Library Construction Program
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 aware capital grants will broaden opportunities to address our state’s aging public libraries.
Status: New.
Possible Amendment.
Pending Introduction.

Access to E-Books
S2890 (May)
This bill would require that publishers who offer electronic books to the private market, also extend licenses to libraries within the State, without discrimination. Contracts would stipulate “reasonable terms” that would allow libraries across the state, and their patrons, to have equitable access to the content they seek.
Status: Former Priority.
Confirmed Assembly Sponsor.
Awaiting Bill Number.

Reduce Petition Requirements for Library Elections
S4430 (Ryan)/A5456 (Jean-Pierre)
The election of library trustees, and the petition for ballot access for some libraries, poses a health and safety issue for the 2021 cycle due to the pandemic. This bill would reduce the required amount of signatures needed for petition purposes for 259 and school district library elections in 2021, to 25.
Status: New.

Streamline & Modernize Library Program Requirements
The distribution of state funding for New York State’s public libraries and library systems is governed by complicated formulas contained in the Education Law. These technical amendments would be funding neutral and replace outdated provisions with new language, to consolidate and modernize programs and to streamline planning and reporting requirements to improve efficiency.
Status: New.
Department of Education Proposal.
Pending Number.

Training for Library Trustees
S4435 (May)
Library trustees play an important role in the success and long-term growth of their libraries. Their actions effect policy, personnel and finances. Currently, the state does not require library trustees to obtain any formal training. Passage of this bill would ensure that those choosing to serve their libraries as a trustee, have the comprehensive and necessary information to be successful.
Status: Former Priority.
Awaiting sponsorship in Assembly.