



THE STATE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK
ALBANY, NY 12234

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Streamline & Modernize Library Program Requirements

THE ISSUE:

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 laws occasionally need to be updated to reflect changes in the way library and information services are now delivered.

In order to streamline and modernize program requirements, retain program intent and sustain or improve program outcomes, the Department is proposing funding neutral technical amendments to replace outdated provisions with new language, to consolidate and modernize programs and to streamline planning and reporting requirements to improve efficiency.

THE SOLUTION:

The Department will propose technical amendments to the Education Law that are funding neutral to update outdated provisions, streamline and modernize program requirements, retain program intent, and sustain or improve program outcomes including, but not limited to:

- Amend Education Law §273-a, to extend the time period for library construction project completion from three years to four years for Library Construction Aid eligibility;
- Amend Education Law §273 to modernize and streamline public library system aid formula language to provide greater flexibility and ease program administration and reporting requirements by:
 - Consolidating Central Library Development aid and Central Book Aid to create a Central Library Services Aid program, and providing for greater spending flexibility within such program;
 - Amending the Public Library Basic Aid formula to streamline formula factors;
 - Consolidating Family Literacy and Adult Literacy within the Public Library System Outreach Aid formula;
 - Consolidating Regional Bibliographic Data Base Aid into Basic Aid for Regional Research Library Systems; and
 - Amending New York Public Library (NYPL) Research Libraries formula language for general support of the NYPL Research Libraries to combine the separate amounts of \$767,000 and the \$5,649,000 stated in the statute into one amount, \$6,416,600.