

BILL NUMBER: S8214A

SPONSOR: RYAN

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to direct the commissioner of education to appoint a media literacy advisory group to study the teaching of media literacy

PURPOSE:

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to appoint a Media Literacy Advisory Committee to study the teaching of media literacy; requires such Committee to survey all school districts.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Section one provides definitions.

Section two directs the Commissioner of Education and other stakeholders to conduct a survey on the status of library media instruction.

Section three establishes information to be collected as part of the survey.

Section four directs the advisory committee to complete a report on its findings.

Section 5 directs the department to publish media literacy guidance and resources.

Section six requires such report to be submitted to the Governor and the legislature.

Section seven establishes the effective date.

JUSTIFICATION:

Over the last decade, the amount of time children and youth spend consuming media has increased dramatically. According to recent research, children ages eight to 18 now spend an average of nearly eight hours per day on entertainment media outside of school. Utilized properly, the media can entertain and inform our children in positive ways. However, opportunities for abuse and misuse are rife, especially as media plays a larger role in society. It is critical that youth be provided the education necessary to develop critical thinking skills and understand the role that media plays and the negative impact it can have when consumed improperly.

As a result of the shifting dynamics and the 24/7 nature of media, media literacy education policy is an urgent priority. Implementation of a Media Literacy Advisory Committee will elevate media literacy as a priority in K-12 schools by making recommendations to support media literacy and better prepare our young people for the future.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

New bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

To be determined.

LOCAL FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

To be determined.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act shall take effect immediately.

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8214--A

## IN SENATE

February 2, 2022

Introduced by Sens. RYAN, JORDAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Libraries -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to direct the commissioner of education to appoint a media literacy advisory group to study the teaching of media literacy

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. For purposes of this act, "media literacy" shall be consid-  
2 ered a broad term that encompasses consumption and production of media  
3 and digital products and is defined as the ability to access, analyze,  
4 evaluate, act and create with all forms of communication, and encom-  
5 passes the foundational skills of digital citizenship and internet safe-  
6 ty including the norms of appropriate, responsible, healthy behavior,  
7 and cyberbullying prevention. "Digital citizenship" shall mean a diverse  
8 set of skills related to current technology and social media, including  
9 the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior and focuses  
10 on empowering learners to use online resources, applications and spaces  
11 to improve communities and curate a positive and effective digital foot-  
12 print.

13 § 2. The commissioner of education, in cooperation with experts in  
14 media literacy, the board of regents, the state university board of  
15 trustees, and stakeholders including educators and parents, shall  
16 appoint a media literacy advisory group ("group") to conduct a survey on  
17 the current status of library media instruction. The commissioner of  
18 education shall serve as chair of the group. Such group shall consist  
19 of nine members other than the commissioner. Three members of the group  
20 shall be staff from school library systems, three members of the group  
21 shall be staff from school libraries, and three members of the group  
22 shall be staff from higher education institutions that offer library and  
23 information studies programs. Each of the aforementioned members shall  
24 possess a New York state public librarian certification and a masters  
25 degree in library sciences, or the equivalent experience.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 3. The group shall survey each school district in the state to  
2 determine the media literacy practices of and the current media literacy  
3 resources available to each district. The survey shall include a check-  
4 list of items for school districts to consider when updating policies  
5 and procedures. The survey shall also inquire of teacher-librarians,  
6 principals, and technology directors to understand how they are current-  
7 ly integrating digital citizenship and media literacy education in their  
8 curriculum.

9 § 4. The group shall make a report of its findings, including any  
10 recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and  
11 appropriate, best practices for instruction that provides guidance about  
12 thoughtful, safe, and strategic uses of online and other media resources  
13 and education on how to apply critical thinking skills when consuming  
14 and producing media in any form. These recommendations and best prac-  
15 tices may include, but are not limited to:

16 (a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional  
17 technology plan;

18 (b) revisions to policies and procedures on media literacy, including  
19 digital citizenship and internet safety;

20 (c) school district processes necessary to develop customized school  
21 district policies and procedures on electronic resources and internet  
22 safety that can be used within a school district technology plan and  
23 strategies that will support school districts in local implementation of  
24 best practices, and recommendations developed by the group, including  
25 strategies for delivering professional development to educators and  
26 administrators. Such processes and strategies shall include, but shall  
27 not be limited to, the development of model media literacy standards;

28 (d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in media  
29 literacy; and

30 (e) best practices, resources, and models for instruction of digital  
31 citizenship, including media literacy, that are compliant with the  
32 federal universal service e-rate program administered by the schools and  
33 libraries division of the universal service administrative company and  
34 federal mandates established in the federal children's internet  
35 protection act.

36 § 5. The department shall publish best practices and resources regard-  
37 ing proper and effective research, social media etiquette, financial  
38 literacy, data use, and other aspects of digital citizenship.

39 § 6. The report required by section four of this act shall be deliv-  
40 ered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the  
41 speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date  
42 of this act. Such report shall be published on the department's website.

43 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.