

STATE OF NEW YORK

5981

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 21, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Education

AN ACT to direct the commissioner of education to study the teaching of digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy; and to amend the education law, in relation to requiring schools to annually review its policy and procedures on digital citizenship, internet safety, and 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, "digital citizenship" and "media
2 literacy" shall be considered broad terms that encompass consumption and
3 production of media and digital products and are defined as follows:

4 (a) "digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to
5 current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate,
6 responsible, and healthy behavior. Major areas include safety concerns
7 such as cyberbullying prevention.

8 (b) "media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate,
9 develop, produce, and interpret media and encompasses the foundational
10 skills that lead to digital citizenship.

11 § 2. The commissioner of education, in cooperation with experts in
12 digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy, the board of
13 regents of the university of the state of New York, and stakeholders
14 including educators and parents, shall conduct a study on the teaching
15 of digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy in schools.

16 § 3. The commissioner of education shall make a report of his or her
17 findings, including any recommendations for legislative action as it may
18 deem necessary and appropriate and best practices for instruction that
19 provides guidance about thoughtful, safe, and strategic uses of online
20 and other media resources and education on how to apply critical think-
21 ing skills when consuming and producing media in any form. These recom-
22 mendations and best practices may include, but are not limited to:

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

LBD09759-01-7

1 (a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional
2 technology plan;

3 (b) revisions to policies and procedures on digital citizenship,
4 internet safety, and media literacy;

5 (c) school district processes necessary to develop customized school
6 district policies and procedures on electronic resources and internet
7 safety that can be used within a school district technology plan;

8 (d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in digital
9 citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy;

10 (e) best practices, resources, and models for instruction of digital
11 citizenship that are compliant with the federal universal service e-rate
12 program administered by the schools and libraries division of the
13 universal service administrative company and federal mandates estab-
14 lished in the federal children's internet protection act; and

15 (f) strategies that will support school districts in local implementa-
16 tion of the best practices and recommendations developed by the depart-
17 ment, including strategies for delivering professional development to
18 educators and administrators.

19 § 4. The report shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary
20 president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than
21 one year after the effective date of this act.

22 § 5. The education law is amended by adding a new section 756 to read
23 as follows:

24 § 756. Annual review of digital citizenship, internet safety, and
25 medial literacy policy and procedures. 1. For purposes of this section,
26 "digital citizenship" and "media literacy" are broad terms that encom-
27 pass consumption and production of media and digital products and are
28 defined as follows:

29 (a) "digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to
30 current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate,
31 responsible, and healthy behavior. Major areas include safety concerns
32 such as cyberbullying prevention; and

33 (b) "media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate,
34 develop, produce, and interpret media and encompasses the foundational
35 skills that lead to digital citizenship.

36 2. Beginning in the two thousand nineteen--two thousand twenty school
37 year, each school district shall annually review its policy and proce-
38 dures on digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy. In
39 reviewing and amending the policy and procedures, a school district
40 shall:

41 (a) involve a representation of parents or guardians, teachers, teach-
42 er librarians, other school employees, school administrators, pupils,
43 and community representatives with experience or expertise in digital
44 citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy issues;

45 (b) consider customizing the model policy and procedures on electronic
46 resources and internet safety;

47 (c) consider existing school district resources; and

48 (d) consider best practices, resources, and models for instruction in
49 digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy, including
50 methods to involve parents.

51 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.