

STATE OF NEW YORK

6142

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 10, 2021

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

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.

8 § 2. The commissioner of education, in cooperation with experts in
9 media literacy, the board of regents of the university of the state of
10 New York, and stakeholders including educators and parents, shall
11 appoint a media literacy advisory group ("group") to conduct a survey on
12 the current status of library media instruction.

13 § 3. The group shall survey each school district in the state to
14 determine the media literacy practices of and the current media literacy
15 resources available to each district. The survey shall include a check-
16 list of items for school districts to consider when updating policies
17 and procedures. The survey shall also inquire of teacher-librarians,
18 principals, and technology directors to understand how they are current-
19 ly integrating digital citizenship and media literacy education in their
20 curriculum. The group shall create a web-based location with links to
21 recommended successful practices and resources to support digital citi-
22 zenship, media literacy, and internet safety.

23 § 4. The group shall make a report of its findings, including any
24 recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and
25 appropriate, best practices for instruction that provides guidance about

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

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1 thoughtful, safe, and strategic uses of online and other media resources
2 and education on how to apply critical thinking skills when consuming
3 and producing media in any form. These recommendations and best prac-
4 tices may include, but are not limited to:

5 (a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional
6 technology plan;

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

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

12 (d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in media
13 literacy;

14 (e) best practices, resources, and models for instruction of digital
15 citizenship, including media literacy, that are compliant with the
16 federal universal service e-rate program administered by the schools and
17 libraries division of the universal service administrative company and
18 federal mandates established in the federal children's internet
19 protection act; and

20 (f) strategies that will support school districts in local implementa-
21 tion of the best practices and recommendations developed by the group,
22 including strategies for delivering professional development to educa-
23 tors and administrators.

24 § 5. The report required by section four of this act shall be deliv-
25 ered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the
26 speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date
27 of this act.

28 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.