STATE OF NEW YORK

5835

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 21, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. R. CARROLL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Libraries and Education Technology

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the libraries literacy education guidance act

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "libraries literacy education guidance act".

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 286 to read as follows:

§ 286. Libraries literacy education guidance. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Evidence-based" means the instruction or item described is based on rigorous, reliable, trustworthy and valid scientific evidence and has demonstrated a record of success in addressing reading competency in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, including background knowledge of oral language and writing.

(b) "Phonemic awareness" means the ability to notice, think about and manipulate individual sounds in spoken syllables and words.

(c) "Vocabulary development" means the process of acquiring new words. "Vocabulary development" includes improving all areas of communication, including listening, speaking, reading and writing.

(d) "Reading fluency" means the ability to read words, phrases and sentences accurately, at an appropriate speed, and with expression.

(e) "Reading comprehension" means a function of word recognition skills and language comprehension skills and shall include having sufficient background information and vocabulary in order for the reader to understand the words in front of them. "Reading comprehension" also includes the active process that requires intentional thinking during which meaning is constructed through interactions between the text and

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

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reader. Comprehension skills are taught explicitly by demonstrating, explaining, modeling and implementing specific cognitive strategies to help beginning readers derive meaning through intentional, problem-solving thinking processes.

2. (a) One year after the effective date of this section, the state librarian shall provide guidance regarding evidence-based practices for literacy education for pre-k through grade twelve and adults to every free association, public and hospital library or, with the advice of the appropriate tribal government and library board of trustees, Indian library which receives any portion of the moneys appropriated by the state to aid such libraries, or which is supported in whole or in part by tax levied by any municipality or district.

(b) Such guidance shall include but not be limited to curricula, texts, education technology, professional education, and public informational materials.

(c) Such guidance shall be updated every two years from the date when such guidance is first issued.

(d) Libraries receiving guidance pursuant to this section shall, every eighteen months after such guidance is issued, provide a report to the state librarian on evidence-based practices for pre-k through grade twelve and adults provided, if any, including but not limited to curricula, texts, education technology, professional education, and public information materials. This report shall be in a form and meet criteria specified by the state librarian.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.