

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 Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (e) "Reading comprehension" means a function of word recognition
21 skills and language comprehension skills and shall include having suffi-
22 cient background information and vocabulary in order for the reader to
23 understand the words in front of them. "Reading comprehension" also
24 includes the active process that requires intentional thinking during
25 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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1 reader. Comprehension skills are taught explicitly by demonstrating,
2 explaining, modeling and implementing specific cognitive strategies to
3 help beginning readers derive meaning through intentional, problem-solv-
4 ing thinking processes.

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

13 (b) Such guidance shall include but not be limited to curricula,
14 texts, education technology, professional education, and public informa-
15 tional materials.

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

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

25 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.