

STATE OF NEW YORK

6142--A

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 -- 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.

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. Such group shall
13 include staff from school library systems, staff from school libraries
14 and staff from higher education institutions that offer library and
15 information studies programs.

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

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

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1 recommended successful practices and resources to support digital citi-
2 zenship, media literacy, and internet safety.

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

10 (a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional
11 technology plan;

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

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

17 (d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in media
18 literacy;

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

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

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

33 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.