

STATE OF NEW YORK

94

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL, THIELE -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to direct the commissioner of education to appoint a media literacy advisory committee to study the teaching of media literacy; and to amend the education law, in relation to creating a media literacy advisory committee to annually review policy and procedures on 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 committee ("committee") to conduct a
12 study on teaching of media literacy in schools.

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

20 (a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional
21 technology plan;

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

LBD00033-01-3

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

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

6 (d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in media
7 literacy;

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

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

18 § 4. The report required by section three of this act shall be deliv-
19 ered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the
20 speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date
21 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 media literacy policy and procedures. 1. For
25 purposes of this section, "media literacy" shall be considered a broad
26 term that encompasses consumption and production of media and digital
27 products and is defined as the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, act
28 and create with all forms of communication, and encompasses the founda-
29 tional skills of digital citizenship and internet safety including the
30 norms of appropriate, responsible, healthy behavior, and cyberbullying
31 prevention.

32 2. Beginning in the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five
33 school year, a media literacy advisory committee shall be created within
34 the department to review and amend the policy and procedures on media
35 literacy. The committee, in conjunction with national or statewide
36 organizations focused on media literacy, shall:

37 (a) involve a representation of parents or guardians, teachers, teach-
38 er librarians, other school employees, school administrators, pupils,
39 and community representatives with experience or expertise in media
40 literacy issues;

41 (b) consider customizing the model policy and procedures on electronic
42 resources;

43 (c) consider existing school district resources; and

44 (d) consider best practices, resources, and models for instruction in
45 media literacy, including methods to involve parents.

46 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.