

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7687

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 4, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to updating provisions relating to dignity for all students; and making an appropriation therefor

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

1 Section 1. Section 10 of the education law, as added by chapter 482 of  
2 the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 10. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that students' ability  
4 to learn and to meet high academic standards, and a school's ability to  
5 educate its students, are compromised by incidents of discrimination or  
6 harassment including bullying, taunting or intimidation. It is hereby  
7 declared to be the policy of the state to afford all students in public  
8 schools an environment free of discrimination and harassment, whether in  
9 the school building or on the internet. The purpose of this article is  
10 to foster civility in public schools and to prevent and prohibit conduct  
11 which is inconsistent with a school's educational mission.

12 § 2. Subdivisions 1, 2, 7 and 8 of section 11 of the education law,  
13 subdivisions 1 and 2 as added by chapter 482 of the laws of 2010, subdivi-  
14 sion 7 as amended and subdivision 8 as added by chapter 102 of the  
15 laws of 2012, are amended and a new subdivision 11 is added to read as  
16 follows:

17 1. "School property" shall mean in or within any building, structure,  
18 athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained with-  
19 in the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary  
20 school; or in or on a school bus, as defined in section one hundred  
21 forty-two of the vehicle and traffic law; or in or within a school  
22 administrative building.

23 2. "School function" shall mean a school-sponsored extra-curricular  
24 event or activity, or a school board or trustee meeting.

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

LBD07978-03-5

1 7. "Harassment" [~~and "bullying"~~] shall mean the creation of a hostile  
2 environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including  
3 cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and  
4 substantially interfering with a student's educational performance,  
5 opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being;  
6 or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a  
7 student to fear for [~~his or her~~] their physical safety; or (c) reason-  
8 ably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or  
9 emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and  
10 creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption  
11 within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct,  
12 threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. Acts of  
13 harassment [~~and bullying~~] shall include, but not be limited to, those  
14 acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight,  
15 national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability,  
16 sexual orientation, gender or sex. For the purposes of this definition  
17 the term "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-  
18 verbal actions.

19 8. "Cyberbullying" shall mean harassment or bullying as defined in  
20 [~~subdivision seven of~~] this section, [~~including paragraphs (a), (b), (c)~~  
21 ~~and (d) of such subdivision,~~] including but not limited  
22 to cell phones, email, social media or text messaging.

23 11. "Bullying" shall mean a pattern of repeated and deliberate aggres-  
24 sive acts intended to harm or humiliate another person who is smaller,  
25 weaker, younger or in any way more vulnerable than the bully, and may  
26 involve verbal attacks, teasing, physical attacks, threats of harm,  
27 sharing personal or private information about someone without their  
28 consent causing embarrassment, deliberate exclusion from activities, or  
29 other forms of intimidation. The deliberate targeting of a vulnerable  
30 person distinguishes "bullying" from "conflict" or other kinds of  
31 aggression.

32 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 12 of the education law, as amended by  
33 chapter 102 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

34 1. No student shall be subjected to harassment or bullying by employ-  
35 ees, school board members, school trustees, or students on school prop-  
36 erty or at a school function; nor shall any student be subjected to  
37 discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color,  
38 weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice,  
39 disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex by school employees,  
40 school board members, school trustees, or students on school property or  
41 at a school function. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to  
42 prohibit a denial of admission into, or exclusion from, a course of  
43 instruction based on a person's gender that would be permissible under  
44 section thirty-two hundred one-a or paragraph (a) of subdivision two of  
45 section twenty-eight hundred fifty-four of this chapter and title IX of  
46 the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. section 1681, et. seq.), or  
47 to prohibit, as discrimination based on disability, actions that would  
48 be permissible under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

49 § 4. Paragraphs e, k and l of subdivision 1 of section 13 of the  
50 education law, as added by chapter 102 of the laws of 2012, are amended  
51 and two new paragraphs m and n are added to read as follows:

52 e. require the school, when an investigation reveals any such verified  
53 harassment, bullying or discrimination, to take prompt actions reason-  
54 ably calculated to end the harassment, bullying or discrimination, elim-  
55 inate any hostile environment, create a more positive school culture and  
56

1 climate, prevent recurrence of the behavior, and ensure the safety of  
2 the student or students against whom such harassment, bullying or  
3 discrimination was directed. Such actions shall be consistent with the  
4 guidelines created pursuant to subdivision four of this section and  
5 shall take into consideration whether notification of persons in  
6 parental relation to the student who is the subject of such harassment,  
7 bullying or discrimination is in the best interest of the student;

8 k. require each school, at least once during each school year, to  
9 provide all school employees, students and parents with a written or  
10 electronic copy of the school district's policies created pursuant to  
11 this section, or a plain-language summary thereof, including notifica-  
12 tion of the process by which students, parents and school employees may  
13 report harassment, bullying and discrimination and to post a written  
14 notification informing students about such policy and the name of the  
15 school employee designated to receive reports of harassment, bullying or  
16 discrimination in the school lobby and in every restroom used by  
17 students as well as other parts of the school where students are likely  
18 to see such posted notification. This subdivision shall not be  
19 construed to require additional distribution of such policies and guide-  
20 lines if they are otherwise distributed to school employees, students  
21 and parents;

22 l. maintain current versions of the school district's policies created  
23 pursuant to this section on the school district's internet website, if  
24 one exists;

25 m. include safe, responsible use of the internet and electronic commu-  
26 nications in the school district's policies;

27 n. develop such policies, procedures and guidelines to prevent  
28 students from being bullied, harassed or discriminated against by school  
29 board members and school trustees; and

30 § 5. Subdivision 5 of section 14 of the education law, as amended by  
31 chapter 90 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

32 5. [~~The commissioner shall prescribe~~] Prescribe regulations that  
33 school professionals applying on or after December thirty-first, two  
34 thousand thirteen for a certificate or license, including but not limit-  
35 ed to a certificate or license valid for service as a classroom teacher,  
36 school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school  
37 administrator or supervisor or superintendent of schools shall, in addi-  
38 tion to all other certification or licensing requirements, have  
39 completed training on the social patterns of harassment, bullying and  
40 discrimination, as defined in section eleven of this article, including  
41 but not limited to those acts based on a person's actual or perceived  
42 race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious  
43 practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex, the identifica-  
44 tion and mitigation of harassment, bullying and discrimination, and  
45 strategies for effectively addressing problems of exclusion, bias and  
46 aggression in educational settings.

47 § 6. Section 15 of the education law, as amended by chapter 102 of the  
48 laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

49 § 15. Reporting by commissioner and use of reports. 1. The commis-  
50 sioner shall create a procedure under which material incidents of  
51 harassment, bullying and discrimination on school grounds or at a school  
52 function are reported to the department at least on an annual basis.  
53 Such procedure shall provide that such reports shall, wherever possible,  
54 also delineate the specific nature of such incidents of harassment,  
55 bullying and discrimination, [~~provided that the commissioner may comply~~  
56 ~~with the requirements of this section through use of the existing~~

~~uniform violent incident reporting system~~] including, but not limited to, whether such incidents were student-on-student, student-on-employee, or employee-on-student, the number of complaints dismissed and the basis for dismissal, the number of students, if any, who withdrew from the school following the filing of a complaint and prior to the next succeeding school year, the number of complaints resulting in any action taken, and the action taken, including student or employee training or education, student or employee discipline, or employee removal, leave of absence or retirement. In addition, the department may conduct research or undertake studies to determine compliance throughout the state with the provisions of this article.

2. The commissioner shall use such reports and data to identify schools and districts that are failing to meet the standards and objectives of this article. The commissioner shall promulgate policies and procedures for improving conditions at these schools to ensure proper training, support, and compliance with all requirements.

3. The commissioner shall deliver the report referenced in subdivision one of this section to the legislature every two years.

§ 7. Section 16 of the education law, as amended by chapter 102 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

§ 16. Protection of people who report harassment, bullying or discrimination. Any person having reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been subjected to harassment, bullying or discrimination, by an employee, school board member, school trustee or student, on school grounds or at a school function, who, acting reasonably and in good faith, reports such information to school officials, to the commissioner or to law enforcement authorities, acts in compliance with paragraph e or i of subdivision one of section thirteen of this article, or otherwise initiates, testifies, participates or assists in any formal or informal proceedings under this article, shall have immunity from any civil liability that may arise from the making of such report or from initiating, testifying, participating or assisting in such formal or informal proceedings, and no school district or employee shall take, request or cause a retaliatory action against any such person who, acting reasonably and in good faith, either makes such a report or initiates, testifies, participates or assists in such formal or informal proceedings.

§ 8. The education law is amended by adding a new article 2-A to read as follows:

#### ARTICLE 2-A

##### STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

#### Section 20. Legislative intent.

##### 21. Definitions.

##### 22. Policies, procedures, and guidelines.

##### 23. Application.

##### 24. Severability and construction.

§ 20. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares the following:

1. According to data from the federal centers for disease control and prevention as reported in the year two thousand sixteen, suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth and young adults ten to twenty-four years of age, inclusive, in both the United States and in New York state.

2. As children and teens spend a significant amount of their young lives in school, the personnel who interact with them on a daily basis

1 are essential gatekeepers for recognizing warning signs of suicide and  
2 making the appropriate referrals for help.

3 3. In a national survey conducted by the Jason Foundation, a teacher  
4 was identified as the number one person to whom a student would turn to  
5 help a friend who might be suicidal. It is imperative that when a young  
6 person comes to a teacher for help, such teacher has the knowledge,  
7 tools, and resources to respond correctly.

8 4. In the year two thousand eighteen, the federal centers for disease  
9 control and prevention found in its Youth Risk Behavior Survey that  
10 lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are almost four times more likely to  
11 seriously consider attempting suicide, have made a suicide plan, or have  
12 attempted suicide, than their heterosexual peers.

13 5. There are national hotlines available to help adults and youth,  
14 including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning  
15 (LGBTQ) youth, who are experiencing suicidal ideation or who are worried  
16 about a family member or peer who may be at risk, including the National  
17 Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, the Trevor Project  
18 Lifeline, and TrevorChat.

19 6. According to the Family Acceptance Project, research has found  
20 that, for an LGBTQ youth, having at least one supportive adult can  
21 reduce the youth's risk of suicide.

22 7. New York state schools face the serious issues of students at high  
23 risk of suicide and death by suicide in the school communities. School  
24 personnel must be supported by clear policies and procedures, which  
25 serve as an easily-accessible roadmap, eliminate confusion over educator  
26 roles and the referral process, and equip educators with the tools to  
27 respond safely when a suicide does occur in the school community.

28 § 21. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following  
29 terms shall have the following meanings:

30 1. "Crisis situation" means a situation where a teacher or other local  
31 educational agency employee believes a student or other individual is in  
32 imminent danger of a suicide attempt.

33 2. "LGBTQ" means individuals who identify, with regards to gender, as  
34 being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning.

35 3. "Local educational agency" means a school district, board of coop-  
36 erative educational services, school, or the education department.

37 4. "Suicide intervention" means specific actions schools can take in  
38 response to suicidal behavior by a student, including, but not limited  
39 to:

40 a. student supervision;  
41 b. notification of parents or guardians;  
42 c. crisis situation response protocols;  
43 d. when and how to request an immediate mental health assessment or  
44 emergency services; and  
45 e. school re-entry procedures following a student mental health  
46 crisis.

47 5. "Suicide postvention" means planned support and interventions  
48 schools can implement after a suicide attempt or suicide death of a  
49 member of the school community that are designed to:

50 a. reduce the risk of the spread of suicidal thoughts or intentions;  
51 b. provide support for affected students and school-based personnel;  
52 c. address the social stigma associated with suicide; and  
53 d. disseminate factual information about suicide and its prevention.

54 6. "Suicide prevention" means specific actions schools can take to  
55 recognize and reduce suicidal behavior, including, but not limited to:

1 a. identifying risks and protective factors for suicide and suicide  
2 warning signs;

3 b. establishing a process by which students are referred to a mental  
4 and behavioral health provider for help;

5 c. making available school-based and community-based mental health  
6 supports;

7 d. providing the location of available online and community suicide  
8 prevention resources, including local crisis centers and hotlines;

9 e. adopting policies and protocols regarding suicide prevention,  
10 intervention, and postvention, school safety, and response to crisis  
11 situations;

12 f. training for school personnel who interact directly with students  
13 in recognizing suicide risks and warning signs and how to refer students  
14 for further assessment and evaluation; and

15 g. instruction to students in problem-solving and coping skills to  
16 promote students' mental, emotional, and social health and well-being,  
17 and instruction in recognizing and appropriately responding to signs of  
18 suicidal intent in others.

19 7. "Mechanical restraints" means any device that restricts an individ-  
20 ual's freedom of movement and that the individual cannot easily remove,  
21 including but not limited to handcuffs and nylon or velcro restraints.

22 § 22. Policies, procedures, and guidelines. 1. The governing board or  
23 body of every local educational agency that serves students in grades  
24 seven to twelve, inclusive, shall, before the first day of August, two  
25 thousand twenty-five, adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines on  
26 student suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for students  
27 in such grades. Such policies, procedures, and guidelines shall be  
28 developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders,  
29 school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention  
30 experts, and shall include, but not be limited to:

31 a. methods to increase awareness of the relationship between suicide  
32 and suicide risk factors, including, but not limited to:

33 i. mental health and substance use conditions;

34 ii. childhood abuse, neglect, or trauma;

35 iii. prolonged stress, including individual experiences such as bully-  
36 ing, harassment, family or relationship stress, or other stressful life  
37 events, as well as collective stressors such as systemic bias and  
38 discrimination;

39 iv. exposure to another person's suicide, or sensationalized or graph-  
40 ic accounts of suicide; and

41 v. previous suicide attempts or history of suicide within a student's  
42 family;

43 b. identification of training opportunities on recognizing suicide  
44 risks, and referral procedures available to school employees;

45 c. availability of expertise from school employees who have been  
46 trained in recognizing suicide risks, and referral procedures;

47 d. how school employees should respond to suspicion, concerns, or  
48 warning signs of suicide in students;

49 e. how school employees should respond to a crisis situation where a  
50 student is in imminent danger to themself;

51 f. policies and protocols for communication with parents, including  
52 those that specify what to do if parental notification is not in the  
53 best interest of the student;

54 g. counseling services available within the school for students and  
55 their families that are related to suicide prevention;

1 h. availability of information concerning crisis situation inter-  
2 vention, suicide prevention, and mental health services in the community  
3 for students and their families and school employees;

4 i. identification and development of partnerships with community  
5 organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental  
6 health, substance use, and social support services, including develop-  
7 ment of at least one memorandum of understanding between the local  
8 education agency and such an organization or agency in the community or  
9 region, other than a law enforcement agency;

10 j. development of a culturally competent plan to assist survivors of  
11 attempted suicide and to assist students and school employees in coping  
12 with an attempted suicide or a suicide death within the school communi-  
13 ty; and

14 k. development of any other related program or activity for students  
15 or school employees.

16 2. The policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted pursuant to subdi-  
17 vision one of this section shall specifically address the needs of high-  
18 risk groups, including, but not limited to, the following:

19 a. youth who have lost a friend or family member to suicide;

20 b. youth with disabilities or with chronic health conditions, includ-  
21 ing mental health and substance use conditions;

22 c. youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as  
23 foster care; and

24 d. LGBTQ youth.

25 3. The policies, procedures, and guidelines adopted pursuant to subdi-  
26 vision one of this section shall be written to ensure that a school  
27 employee acts only within the authorization and scope of such employee's  
28 credential or license. Nothing in this section shall be construed as  
29 authorizing or encouraging a school employee to diagnose or treat mental  
30 health conditions unless such employee is specifically licensed and  
31 employed to do so.

32 4. The policies, procedures and guidelines adopted pursuant to this  
33 section shall ensure that school officials are solely responsible for  
34 responding to student behavior. Such policies, procedures and guidelines  
35 shall make clear that law enforcement involvement in addressing student  
36 behavior should be the last resort and shall make clear that unless  
37 otherwise authorized by state law:

38 a. Law enforcement officers and school resource officers shall not use  
39 mechanical restraints on a student unless such restraints are necessary  
40 to prevent imminent and serious physical injury to such student or  
41 another person, and the use of such restraints is limited in duration to  
42 the time period in which such student presents a risk of causing serious  
43 physical injury to themselves or others; and

44 b. Any determination that a student requires hospital transport for a  
45 mental health evaluation shall whenever practicable be made by a clin-  
46 ically trained mental health professional. Such student shall be accom-  
47 panied during such transport by a designated school employee, and such  
48 person shall stay with the student until their parent or parent's desig-  
49 nee arrives. The school shall be responsible for contacting the parent  
50 when such hospital transport is needed.

51 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no  
52 cause of action may be brought for any loss or damage caused by any act  
53 or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this  
54 article, or resulting from any training, or lack of training, required  
55 by this article. Nothing in this article shall be construed to impose  
56 any specific duty of care.

1 6. To assist local educational agencies in developing policies for  
2 student suicide prevention, the department shall develop and maintain  
3 model policies, procedures, and guidelines in accordance with this  
4 section to serve as a guide for local educational agencies. Such model  
5 policies, procedures, and guidelines shall be posted within thirty days  
6 of their completion on the department's internet website, along with  
7 relevant resources and information to support schools in developing and  
8 implementing the policies, procedures, and guidelines required under  
9 subdivision one of this section.

10 7. The governing board or body of a local educational agency that  
11 serves students in grades seven to twelve, inclusive, shall review, at  
12 minimum every fifth year following the effective date of this article,  
13 its policies, procedures, and guidelines on student suicide prevention  
14 and, if necessary, update such policies, procedures, and guidelines.

15 § 23. Application. The provisions of this article shall apply to all  
16 private and public educational institutions in New York state.

17 § 24. Severability and construction. The provisions of this article  
18 shall be severable, and if any court of competent jurisdiction declares  
19 any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this article to be invalid,  
20 or its applicability to any government agency, person or circumstance is  
21 declared invalid, the remainder of this article and its relevant appli-  
22 cability shall not be affected. The provisions of this article shall be  
23 liberally construed to give effect to the purposes thereof.

24 § 9. Section 801-a of the education law, as amended by section 102 of  
25 the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

26 § 801-a. Instruction in civility, citizenship ~~and~~, character educa-  
27 tion, digital citizenship, and media literacy.

28 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have  
29 the following meanings:

30 a. "Tolerance", "respect for others", and "dignity" shall include  
31 awareness and sensitivity to harassment, bullying, discrimination, and  
32 civility in the relations of people of different races, weights,  
33 national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental  
34 or physical abilities, sexual orientations, genders, and sexes.

35 b. "Digital citizenship" shall mean a diverse set of skills related to  
36 current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate,  
37 responsible, and healthy behavior and focuses on empowering learners to  
38 use online resources, applications, and spaces to improve communities  
39 and curate a positive and effective digital footprint.

40 c. "Media literacy" shall mean the ability to use media and to access,  
41 analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication and  
42 encompasses the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship.

43 2. The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades  
44 kindergarten through twelve includes a component on civility, citizen-  
45 ship, and character education. Such component shall instruct students on  
46 the principles of honesty, tolerance, personal responsibility, and  
47 respect for others, with an emphasis on discouraging acts of harassment,  
48 bullying, discrimination, observance of laws and rules, courtesy, digni-  
49 ty, and other traits which will enhance the quality of their experiences  
50 in, and contributions to, the community. Such component shall include  
51 instruction of safe, responsible use of the internet and electronic  
52 communications. The regents shall determine how to incorporate such  
53 component in existing curricula and the commissioner shall promulgate  
54 any regulations needed to carry out such determination of the regents.

55 ~~[For the purposes of this section, "tolerance," "respect for others" and~~  
56 ~~"dignity" shall include awareness and sensitivity to harassment, bully-~~

~~ing, discrimination and civility in the relations of people of different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, genders, and sexes.]~~

3. The regents, in conjunction with the commissioner, shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades kindergarten through twelve includes a component on media literacy. Such component shall include instruction of internet safety, civility, and digital citizenship with a focus on the principles of safe, responsible use of the internet and electronic communications. The boards of education and trustees of the cities and school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in media literacy by the teachers employed in the schools therein. If available, instruction in media literacy shall be provided by library media specialists employed by the schools therein.

4. The commissioner, in conjunction with the regents, shall incorporate existing state media literacy standards into the component described in subdivision two of this section and create a clear and coherent set of media literacy education standards, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following skills, experiences, and competencies:

a. reading experiences balanced between literature and informational texts, which include both print and digital sources;

b. integration and evaluation of content and information presented in diverse media and formats, including visual, quantitative, and oral;

c. use of technology and digital tools, including the internet, for writing and drawing to increase learning and communication and to interact and collaborate with others;

d. writing of informative and explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content, including multimedia;

e. strategic use of digital media and visual displays to express information and enhance understanding of presentations;

f. the ability to assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text, drawing on a wide range of global and diverse texts;

g. gathering of relevant information from multiple sources and assessing the credibility and accuracy of such sources, for the purpose of integrating such information in writing without plagiarizing;

h. effectively communicating conclusions and taking informed action based on such conclusions;

i. the ability to create, produce, respond, interpret, and connect with artistic work and techniques;

j. managing information with a focus on the ability to access and use information obtained from other people, community resources, and computer networks and using technology to acquire, organize, and communicate information by entering, modifying, retrieving, and storing data;

k. demonstration of digital citizenship by maintaining ethical decision making and behavior and avoid the spread of misinformation in the exchange and use of information;

l. use of digital tools to communicate and work with others to build knowledge, convey ideas, learn with others, create and revise collaborative products, support individual learning, and contribute to the learning of others;

m. use of digital tools to create and revise simple, complex, and multimedia digital artifacts;

1 n. identification of ways other people put their own information into  
 2 online spaces;

3 o. the ability to explain how actions in online spaces can have conse-  
 4 quences in other spaces and the connection between the persistence of  
 5 data on the internet, personal online identity, and personal privacy;

6 p. actively managing digital presence and digital footprint to reflect  
 7 an understanding of the permanence and potential consequences of actions  
 8 in online spaces;

9 q. designing and implementing strategies that support safety and secu-  
 10 rity of digital information, personal identity, property, and physical  
 11 and mental health when operating in the digital world;

12 r. identifying types of cyberbullying and developing strategies to  
 13 combat cyberbullying and harassment; and

14 s. any additional media literacy standards outlined in state depart-  
 15 ment publications or in the codes, rules and regulations of the state of  
 16 New York, as deemed necessary.

17 5. The commissioner, in conjunction with the regents, shall update the  
 18 New York state professional teaching standards to incorporate media  
 19 literacy and educate library media specialists and teachers on the rele-  
 20 vant standards of media literacy so that library media specialists and  
 21 teachers can effectively incorporate such standards into their curric-  
 22 ulums.

23 6. The commissioner, in conjunction with the regents, shall annually  
 24 review the media literacy standards set forth in this section to ensure  
 25 such standards capture the full range of skills, experiences, and compe-  
 26 tencies that research indicates is necessary for media literacy, and  
 27 shall update such standards as necessary.

28 7. The media literacy standards set forth in this section shall serve  
 29 as an overview of the state's interdisciplinary approach to media liter-  
 30 acy education and shall emphasize the importance of media literacy for  
 31 civic readiness.

32 § 10. Subdivision 1 of section 2801 of the education law, as amended  
 33 by chapter 402 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

34 1. a. For purposes of this section, [~~school—property~~] the following  
 35 terms shall have the following meanings:

36 (i) "School property" means:

37 (A) in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field,  
 38 playground, parking lot, or land contained within the real property  
 39 boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school or within a  
 40 school administration building; or

41 (B) in or on a school bus, as defined in section one hundred forty-two  
 42 of the vehicle and traffic law[~~, and a school function shall mean~~].

43 (ii) "School function" means a school-sponsored or school-authorized  
 44 [~~extra-curricular~~] extra curricular event or activity or a school board  
 45 or trustee meeting, regardless of where such event or activity takes  
 46 place, including any event or activity that may take place in another  
 47 state.

48 b. This section shall also apply to cyberbullying, whether on or off  
 49 school property or at or away from a school function.

50 § 11. Subdivision 2 of section 3006-a of the education law, as added  
 51 by section 2 of subpart C of part EE of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015,  
 52 is amended and a new subdivision 4 is added to read as follows:

53 2. a. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after  
 54 July first, two thousand sixteen, an applicant for registration shall  
 55 successfully complete a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing  
 56 teacher and leader education, as defined by the commissioner. The

1 department shall issue rigorous standards for courses, programs, and  
2 activities, that shall qualify as continuing teacher and leader educa-  
3 tion pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, a peer  
4 review teacher, or a principal acting as an independent trained evalu-  
5 ator, conducting a classroom observation as part of the teacher evalu-  
6 ation system pursuant to section three thousand twelve-d of this article  
7 may credit such time towards ~~his or her~~ their continuing teacher and  
8 leader effectiveness requirements.

9 b. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after a  
10 date which shall be determined by the commissioner, any teacher who is  
11 an applicant for registration shall successfully complete a minimum of  
12 five hours of professional development related to media literacy educa-  
13 tion and any library media specialist shall complete a minimum of  
14 fifteen hours of professional development related to media literacy  
15 education, as defined by the commissioner. Such professional develop-  
16 ment related to media literacy education shall be counted toward the one  
17 hundred hours of continuing teacher and leader education required by  
18 paragraph a of this subdivision. The commissioner shall require that:

19 (i) professional development related to media literacy education  
20 incorporates the principles and practices of the department's culturally  
21 responsive-sustaining framework;

22 (ii) professional development related to media literacy education is  
23 provided by or in coordination with a library media specialist or an  
24 employee from a school district's library system in every school  
25 district;

26 (iii) library media specialists in every school district receive  
27 specific training in how to provide professional development related to  
28 media literacy education to teachers of all grade levels and subject  
29 areas contained in their schools, which shall include instruction on how  
30 to effectively integrate media literacy education into such teachers'  
31 curricula; and

32 (iv) the department creates and provides model curricula and teaching  
33 and professional development resources which incorporate media literacy  
34 education on its website.

35 c. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after a  
36 date which shall be determined by the commissioner, any teacher who is  
37 an applicant for registration shall successfully complete a minimum of  
38 five hours of professional development related to articles two and two-A  
39 of this chapter. Such professional development shall be counted toward  
40 the one hundred hours of continuing teacher and leader education  
41 required by paragraph a of this subdivision. The commissioner shall  
42 require that:

43 (i) professional development related to articles two and two-A of this  
44 chapter incorporates the principles and practices of the department's  
45 culturally responsive-sustaining framework;

46 (ii) professional development related to articles two and two-A of  
47 this chapter is provided by or in coordination with a teacher or guid-  
48 ance counselor in every school district; and

49 (iii) the department creates and provides model curricula and teaching  
50 and professional development resources which incorporate the principles  
51 and practices articulated in articles two and two-A of this chapter on  
52 its website.

53 d. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of local school  
54 districts to agree pursuant to collective bargaining to additional hours  
55 of professional development or continuing teacher or leader education  
56 above the minimum requirements set forth in this section.

1     ~~e.~~ e. A certified individual who has not satisfied the continuing  
2 teacher and leader education requirements shall not be issued a five-  
3 year registration certificate by the department and shall not practice  
4 unless and until a registration or conditional registration certificate  
5 is issued as provided in subdivision three of this section. For purposes  
6 of this subdivision, "continuing teacher and leader education require-  
7 ments" shall mean activities designed to improve the teacher or leader's  
8 pedagogical and/or leadership skills, targeted at improving student  
9 performance, including but not limited to formal continuing teacher and  
10 leader education activities. Such activities shall promote the profes-  
11 sionalization of teaching and be closely aligned to district goals for  
12 student performance which meet the standards prescribed by regulations  
13 of the commissioner. To fulfill the continuing teacher and leader educa-  
14 tion requirement, programs must be taken from sponsors approved by the  
15 department, which shall include but not be limited to school districts,  
16 pursuant to the regulations of the commissioner.

17     4. For the purposes of this section, "library media specialist" shall  
18 mean an individual employed by a school district as a library media  
19 specialist pursuant to section 91.2 of title eight of the codes, rules  
20 and regulations of the state of New York.

21     § 12. The sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000), or so much  
22 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of  
23 education out of moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the  
24 credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and  
25 made immediately available, for the purposes of carrying out the  
26 provisions of this act. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) of such funds  
27 shall be used for purposes including, but not limited to, the develop-  
28 ment and distribution of teacher trainings, model lessons, and continu-  
29 ing education classes. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) of such funds  
30 shall be used for purposes including, but not limited to, the develop-  
31 ment and implementation of media literacy standards, teacher trainings,  
32 and continuing professional development. Five million dollars  
33 (\$5,000,000) of such funds shall be used for purposes including, but not  
34 limited to, the development and distribution of policies, standards, and  
35 trainings related to suicide prevention. Such moneys shall be payable on  
36 the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or  
37 approved by the commissioner of the department of education in the  
38 manner prescribed by law.

39     § 13. This act shall take effect immediately.