

# STATE OF NEW YORK

150

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL, KELLEES -- 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.

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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-six--two thousand twenty-seven  
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.