

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5821

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "media  
literacy act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "media literacy act".

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

6 2. a. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after  
7 July first, two thousand sixteen, an applicant for registration shall  
8 successfully complete a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing  
9 teacher and leader education, as defined by the commissioner. The  
10 department shall issue rigorous standards for courses, programs, and  
11 activities, that shall qualify as continuing teacher and leader educa-  
12 tion pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, a peer  
13 review teacher, or a principal acting as an independent trained evalu-  
14 ator, conducting a classroom observation as part of the teacher evalu-  
15 ation system pursuant to section three thousand twelve-d of this article  
16 may credit such time towards [~~his or her~~] their continuing teacher and  
17 leader effectiveness requirements.

18 b. During each five-year registration period beginning on or after a  
19 date which shall be determined by the commissioner, any teacher who is  
20 an applicant for registration shall successfully complete a minimum of  
21 five hours of professional development related to media literacy educa-  
22 tion and any library media specialist shall complete a minimum of  
23 fifteen hours of professional development related to media literacy  
24 education, as defined by the commissioner. Such professional develop-  
25 ment related to media literacy education shall be counted toward the one

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

LBD05708-01-5

hundred hours of continuing teacher and leader education required by paragraph a of this subdivision. The commissioner shall require that:

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

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

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

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

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

~~[c-]~~ d. A certified individual who has not satisfied the continuing teacher and leader education requirements shall not be issued a five-year registration certificate by the department and shall not practice unless and until a registration or conditional registration certificate is issued as provided in subdivision three of this section. For purposes of this subdivision, "continuing teacher and leader education requirements" shall mean activities designed to improve the teacher or leader's pedagogical and/or leadership skills, targeted at improving student performance, including but not limited to formal continuing teacher and leader education activities. Such activities shall promote the professionalization of teaching and be closely aligned to district goals for student performance which meet the standards prescribed by regulations of the commissioner. To fulfill the continuing teacher and leader education requirement, programs must be taken from sponsors approved by the department, which shall include but not be limited to school districts, pursuant to the regulations of the commissioner.

4. For the purposes of this section, "library media specialist" shall mean an individual employed by a school district as a library media specialist pursuant to 8 NYCRR 91.2.

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

§ 286. School library media specialist. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and subject to the provisions of subdivision two of this section, each school district shall employ a certified school library media specialist in each elementary, intermediate, middle, junior high and senior high school within three years of the effective date of this section.

2. Employment of certified school library media specialist shall be in accordance with the following standards:

a. In each school with an enrollment of not more than one hundred students, a certified school library media specialist shall be employed as fifteen-hundredths of a full-time equivalent staff member;

b. In each school with an enrollment of more than one hundred but not more than three hundred students, a certified school library media

1 specialist shall be employed as a three-tenths of a full-time equivalent  
2 staff member;

3 c. In each elementary or secondary school with an enrollment of more  
4 than three hundred but no more than five hundred students, a certified  
5 school library media specialist shall be employed as a one-half of a  
6 full-time equivalent staff member;

7 d. In each school with an enrollment of more than five hundred  
8 students, a certified school library media specialist shall be employed  
9 as a full-time equivalent staff member;

10 e. In each school with an enrollment of more than one thousand  
11 students but no more than two thousand students, a certified school  
12 library media specialist and a support staff person shall be employed as  
13 a full-time equivalent staff member;

14 f. (i) In each school with an enrollment of at least two thousand  
15 students, two certified school library media specialists and two support  
16 staff persons shall be employed as a full-time equivalent staff member;

17 (ii) An additional full-time equivalent staff member shall be employed  
18 as a support staff person for each additional one thousand students  
19 enrolled in a school.

20 3. The commissioner may, upon application by a school district, waive  
21 the applicability of the provisions of subdivisions one and two of this  
22 section for up to two years, if such application demonstrates the school  
23 is within a designated shortage area for certified school library media  
24 specialists, and such application demonstrates that such school has a  
25 two-year plan to be in compliance with the provisions of this section;  
26 however, no such waiver shall be granted for more than two consecutive  
27 school years.

28 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 711 of the education law, as amended by  
29 chapter 571 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

30 2. School library materials, for the purposes of this article shall  
31 mean digital materials, audio/visual materials and printed materials  
32 that may or may not require magnification which meet all of the follow-  
33 ing criteria: (1) materials which are catalogued and processed as part  
34 of the school library or media center for use by elementary and/or  
35 secondary school children and teachers; (2) materials which with reason-  
36 able care and use may be expected to last more than one year; and (3)  
37 materials which would not be eligible for aid pursuant to sections seven  
38 hundred one and seven hundred fifty-one of this title. School library  
39 materials meeting these criteria may include (i) hard cover, paperback  
40 books and e-books, periodicals, that is, print and digital publications  
41 which are subscription-based and appear at regular intervals of less  
42 than one year on a continuing basis for an indefinite period, documents  
43 other than books, pamphlets, musical scores, other printed, digital and  
44 published materials, (ii) for school year nineteen hundred eighty-six--  
45 eighty-seven and thereafter, audio/visual materials including films,  
46 film strips, micro-film, sound recordings, processed slides, transparen-  
47 cies, kinescopes, video tapes, maps, charts, globes, pictorial works,  
48 including pictures and picture sets, reproductions, photographs, graphic  
49 works, any audio/visual, online or electronic materials needed for media  
50 literacy programs, and any other audio/visual materials of a similar  
51 nature made.

52 § 5. For the purposes of sections five, six, seven and eight of this  
53 act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

54 1. "Digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to  
55 current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate,  
56 responsible, and healthy behavior.

1 2. "Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate,  
2 and use media and information and encompasses the foundational skills  
3 that lead to digital citizenship.

4 § 6. The commissioner of education, in cooperation with experts in  
5 media literacy, the board of regents of the university of the state of  
6 New York, and educators, shall appoint a media literacy advisory commit-  
7 tee ("committee") to conduct a study on teaching of media literacy in  
8 schools.

9 § 7. The group shall create a survey and submit to each school admin-  
10 istrator in the state to provide feedback from teachers and students to  
11 the state board of education to identify media literacy best practices  
12 of and the current media literacy resources available to each district  
13 to best inform future instruction. The survey shall include a checklist  
14 of items for school districts to consider when updating policies and  
15 procedures. The survey shall also inquire of teacher-librarians, princi-  
16 pals, and technology directors to understand how they are currently  
17 integrating digital citizenship and media literacy education in their  
18 curriculum.

19 § 8. The committee shall make a report of its findings, including any  
20 recommendations for legislative action as it may deem necessary and  
21 appropriate, best practices for instruction that provides guidance that  
22 identifies fake print and video media and to apply critical thinking  
23 skills when consuming and producing media in any form. These recommenda-  
24 tions and best practices may include, but are not limited to:

25 (a) revisions to state education standards and the state instructional  
26 technology plan;

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

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

32 (d) best practices, resources, and models for instruction in media  
33 literacy;

34 (e) best practices, resources, and models for instruction of digital  
35 citizenship, including media literacy, that are compliant with the  
36 federal universal service e-rate program administered by the schools and  
37 libraries division of the universal service administrative company and  
38 federal mandates established in the federal children's internet  
39 protection act; and

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

44 § 9. The report required by section seven of this act shall be deliv-  
45 ered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the  
46 speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date  
47 of this act.

48 § 10. The education law is amended by adding a new section 756 to read  
49 as follows:

50 § 756. Annual review of media literacy policy and procedures. 1. For  
51 purposes of this section, "media literacy" shall be considered a broad  
52 term that encompasses consumption and production of media and digital  
53 products and is defined as the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, act  
54 and create with all forms of communication, and encompasses the founda-  
55 tional skills of digital citizenship and internet safety including the

1 norms of appropriate, responsible, healthy behavior, and cyberbullying  
2 prevention.

3 2. Beginning in the two thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six  
4 school year, a media literacy advisory committee shall be created within  
5 the department to review and amend the policy and procedures on media  
6 literacy. The committee, in conjunction with national or statewide  
7 organizations focused on media literacy, shall:

8 (a) involve a representation of teachers, teacher-librarians, school  
9 media specialists, other school employees, school administrators,  
10 pupils, and community representatives with experience or expertise in  
11 media literacy issues;

12 (b) consider customizing the model policy and procedures on electronic  
13 resources;

14 (c) consider existing school district resources; and

15 (d) consider best practices, resources, and models for instruction in  
16 media literacy.

17 § 11. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding  
18 the date on which it shall have become a law.