



# New York Library Association 2024 Budget Priorities and Initiatives

(Updated: November 30, 2024)

## FY2025 Budget Requests

- Library Operating Aid: \$147.1 million**  
*Since its inception in 1991, Library Operating Aid has been underfunded by a cumulative \$207.035 million relative to what is statutory under state law, with \$157.035 million dollars coming in just the last fifteen years.*
- Library Construction Aid: \$69.4 million**  
*The New York State Division of Library Development estimates a current statewide need of \$1.75 billion for library construction. Current funding at \$34 million is wholly inadequate if we are to ensure that our libraries are physically sound and accessible for all patrons.*
- Library Materials Aid: \$11.00/pupil**  
*Since 1994, the per pupil rate for library materials has only increased \$4.25 and has remained flat at \$6.25 since 2007. In 2022, the average cost of a hardcover children's book purchased by a school library was \$21.31.*
- NOVELny Program: \$3 million**  
*NYLA supports a \$3 million allocation for the continuation of the NOVELny program beyond its scheduled funding-related termination on June 30, 2024. Doing so would ensure equity of access to essential database resources for all New Yorkers, from students in K-12 classrooms to life-long learners in the public setting.*

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## 2024 Policy Initiatives

### **Protection of Patron Access to Library Materials and Services**

S6350-B (May) / A6873-B (O'Donnell)  
S7677 (May) / A7843A (Kelles)  
Additional Proposals Pending

*Libraries across our state face rapidly expanding efforts to censor materials and programming they deem objectionable based on subjective personal sensibilities and partisan ideologies. We require legislation that empowers library professionals to exercise their expertise and ensure public access to materials, services, and programs that represent their interests.*

### **Modernization of Civil Service**

Proposal Pending

*Working with the Civil Service Committee, legislative partners and allies at external organizations, we are seeking amendments to processes and protocols within Civil Service for the field of librarianship.*

### **Elimination of Library Construction Cap**

S7093 (Chu)

*Libraries serving economically distressed communities may be eligible for Library Construction Aid awards beyond 75.00%. However, the law currently only allows public library systems to award 50% of their total allocation to such projects.*

*This proposal would eliminate the 50% cap to ensure that libraries serving economically distressed communities and libraries in rural regions will be able to make use of the library construction aid intended to benefit these communities.*

### **Media Literacy Professional Development**

A32 (Rosenthal)

*This bill would require teachers and certified school librarians to receive professional development related to Media Literacy. The tiered training, 5 hours for teachers and 15 hours for librarians, would be deducted from the 100 hours of professional development required by education law.*

### **Library Media Specialist K-12 Requirement**

A40 (Rosenthal)

*If enacted this bill would require, based on student population and other specified criteria, that all levels of K-12 public schools have access to a certified library media specialist.*

### **Media Literacy Advisory Group Formation**

A35 (Rosenthal)

*If enacted, this bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to appoint a Media Literacy Advisory Committee to study the teaching of media literacy across New York State. The assembled group would include staff from school library systems, school libraries and individuals from high education institutions that offer information studies programs.*

### **Creation of Media Literacy Standards in K-12**

A1695 (Rosenthal)

*If enacted, this legislation would direct the State Education Department to develop a set of media literacy standards and ensure media literacy education is being provided to students across New York State.*

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## **2024 Policy Initiatives**

### **Book Fair Tax Exemption**

S5955A (Chu) / A5538-B (Rivera)

*This bill would make books, magazines, pamphlets, and other items sold at school sponsored book fairs exempt from sales tax.*

### **Check Out New York**

S5956A (Chu) / A4112A (Jensen)

This bill would provide one-pass per public library to every state park, historic site, and recreational facility operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

### **Association Retirement Opt-In Opportunity**

S4245 (Palumbo) / A4885 (Thiele)

*This bill would allow association libraries that meet certain criteria the ability to join the New York State Retirement System upon approval of their board.*

### **Access to Publicly Funded Research**

S6562 (Chu)

*This bill would ensure original research that is the result of state funding would be available, free of charge, to the public.*

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