



2024 NYLA Policy Initiatives

(Updated: November 30, 2023)

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.

NYLA_1890



NYLA_1890



NYLA_1890





2024 NYLA 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.

NYLA_1890



NYLA_1890



NYLA_1890

