



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Expand Access to School Libraries and Librarians

Background:

- Currently, elementary schools are not required to be staffed by a certified School Library Media Specialist, while secondary schools are only required to do so by Commissioner's Education Regulations. Many school districts disregard the Commissioner's regulations; the NYC Department of Education previously sought a waiver from this requirement.

Impact:

- Passing this bill would ensure that all students, K-12, have access to a school library staffed by a certified school librarian.

Taxpayer Access to Publicly-Funded Research

Background:

- This legislation requires New York State funded research published in peer-reviewed journals be made available online by the state agencies that underwrite such research. This bill would bring NYS in line with the federal standards employed by the National Institute of Health and the State of California.

Impact:

- This bill would eliminate an area of double taxation by making taxpayer-funded scholarly research available after one year.

Provide Universal Access to DASNY Financing for Public Libraries

Background:

- This legislation would make all public libraries eligible for public financing through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. Currently, any library not yet eligible by law for DASNY funding must individually be added to the statutory list of approved institutions.

Impact:

- This legislation would remove an antiquated and cumbersome roadblock for libraries in need of timely renovations.