

**ASSEMBLY, No. 248**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

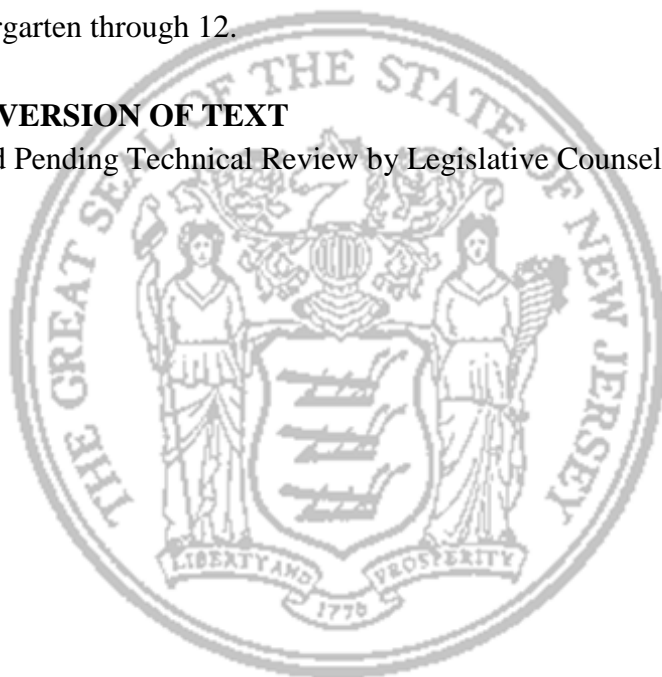
**Assemblywomen Sumter, Murphy, Assemblymen Karabinchak, Simonsen, McClellan, Assemblywomen Timberlake, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman DiMaio, Assemblywomen Stanfield, Chaparro and Assemblyman Giblin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires instruction on information literacy in curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning public school instruction on information  
2 literacy and supplementing chapters 26 and 35 of Title 18A of  
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. As used in this act, the term “information literacy” means a  
9 set of skills that enables an individual to recognize when  
10 information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively  
11 the needed information. Information literacy includes digital,  
12 visual, media, textual, and technological literacy.

13  
14 2. A school district shall incorporate instruction on information  
15 literacy in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in each  
16 of the grades kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall be  
17 based on the curriculum guidelines established by the  
18 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 3 of this act. The  
19 instruction shall be included in the curriculum for each grade in a  
20 manner adapted to the age and understanding of the students and  
21 shall provide a thorough and comprehensive treatment of the  
22 subject.

23  
24 3. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
25 New Jersey State Librarian, shall develop curriculum guidelines for  
26 school districts on information literacy. The guidelines shall  
27 provide for a sequential course of study for each of the grades  
28 kindergarten through 12, and shall include, at a minimum, the  
29 following:

30 (1) knowledge of the research process and the ways in which  
31 information is created and produced;

32 (2) skills in using information resources and critical thinking  
33 about those resources;

34 (3) the abilities to evaluate information critically and  
35 competently, to recognize relevant primary and secondary  
36 information, and to distinguish among facts, points of view, and  
37 opinions;

38 (4) access to information and information tools through  
39 instruction, learning strategies, and practice; and

40 (5) an understanding of economic, legal, and social issues  
41 surrounding the use of information, and an understanding of how to  
42 use information ethically and legally.

43 The guidelines shall include model instructional units, define  
44 learning objectives, and recommend instructional materials suitable  
45 for each grade level.

46 b. The guidelines developed pursuant to this section shall be  
47 reviewed annually and shall be updated as appropriate to ensure that  
48 the curriculum reflects the most current information available on

1 the identity, analysis, retrieval, evaluation, and navigation of  
2 information.

3  
4 4. a. Following the development of the curriculum guidelines  
5 on information literacy pursuant to section 3 of this act, the  
6 commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey State Librarian,  
7 shall establish in-service training programs for school  
8 administrators and certified school library media specialists on  
9 developing information literacy instruction for students. In-service  
10 training programs shall also be provided to the teaching staff  
11 members who will provide the instruction on information literacy in  
12 each grade, and shall allow the opportunity for collaboration among  
13 teachers and certified school library media specialists to advance  
14 information literacy in the kindergarten through grade 12  
15 curriculum. The commissioner shall also make the in-service  
16 programs available to such other instructional and supervisory staff  
17 as he deems necessary and appropriate.

18 b. A school district shall provide time for the in-service training  
19 programs during the regular school schedule in order to ensure that  
20 teaching staff members are prepared to teach the educational  
21 program on information literacy in each grade.

22  
23 5. The commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey State  
24 Librarian, shall develop and administer a system for evaluating the  
25 effectiveness of instructional programs on information literacy  
26 established by school districts pursuant to this act. The  
27 commissioner shall make programs that are shown to be effective  
28 available as model programs to other school districts throughout the  
29 State. The evaluation of instructional programs on information  
30 literacy shall be designed to aid school administrators and certified  
31 school library media specialists in sustaining and expanding the  
32 school library program.

33  
34 6. A regionally-accredited institution of higher education  
35 offering a teacher preparation program for a New Jersey  
36 instructional certificate, and the preparation program for any person  
37 seeking an instructional certificate through the State's alternate  
38 route program, shall incorporate programming on the subject of  
39 information literacy, as that term is defined in section 1 of P.L. ,  
40 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The  
41 programming shall include, but need not be limited to, the inquiry-  
42 based research skills necessary to access, collect, and evaluate  
43 information credibly, accurately, and ethically.

44  
45 7. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations  
46 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
47 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this  
48 act.

1           8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
2 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7           This bill requires school districts to incorporate instruction on  
8 information literacy into the curriculum in each of the grades  
9 kindergarten through 12. “Information literacy,” as used in the bill,  
10 means a set of skills that enables an individual to recognize when  
11 information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively  
12 the needed information. Information literacy includes digital,  
13 visual, media, textual, and technological literacy.

14          The bill directs the Commissioner of Education, in consultation  
15 with the New Jersey State Librarian, to develop curriculum  
16 guidelines on information literacy to be used by school districts.  
17 The guidelines will provide for a sequential course of study for each  
18 of the grades kindergarten through 12 and must include, at a  
19 minimum, the following: (1) knowledge of the research process and  
20 how information is created and produced; (2) skills in using  
21 information resources and critical thinking about those resources;  
22 (3) the abilities to evaluate information critically and competently,  
23 to recognize relevant primary and secondary information, and to  
24 distinguish among facts, points of view, and opinions; (4) access to  
25 information and information tools; and (5) an understanding of  
26 economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of  
27 information, and how to use information ethically and legally. The  
28 guidelines also will include model instructional units, define  
29 learning objectives, and recommend suitable instructional materials.  
30 The guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated as  
31 appropriate.

32          In addition, the bill requires the commissioner, in consultation  
33 with the State Librarian, to establish in-service training programs on  
34 information literacy instruction for school administrators, certified  
35 school library media specialists, and the teaching staff members  
36 who will provide the instruction on information literacy in each  
37 grade. The in-service training programs will provide the  
38 opportunity for collaboration among teachers and school library  
39 media specialists to advance information literacy in the  
40 kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum.

41          Under the bill, the commissioner, in consultation with the State  
42 Librarian, will develop a system for evaluating the effectiveness of  
43 instructional programs on information literacy established by school  
44 districts pursuant to the bill’s provisions. The commissioner will  
45 make programs that are shown to be effective available as model  
46 programs to other school districts throughout the State.

- 1 Finally, the bill requires that teacher preparation programs and
- 2 alternate route programs for a New Jersey instructional certificate
- 3 incorporate programming on the subject of information literacy.