

SENATE, No. 3464

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Gopal, A.M.Bucco, Singer, Greenstein and T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/22/2021)

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
19 training programs during the regular school schedule in order to
20 ensure that teaching staff members are prepared to teach the
21 educational 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
40 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
41 The programming shall include, but need not be limited to, the
42 inquiry-based research skills necessary to access, collect, and
43 evaluate 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
48 this 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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5 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.