



What is media literacy?

Media Literacy Now defines media literacy as an umbrella term that encompasses many approaches, including developing critical thinking skills around all types of media, building an understanding of how media messages shape our culture and society, and giving all people the tools to advocate for a changed media system. As the National Association of Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) states, “media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication.”

Goal:

For all students in New York State to become more media literate with the help of teachers and school library media specialists; to empower and educate the youth with the tools and resources they need to participate as thoughtful and productive members of society.

The Bills:

- **A6142A (Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal):** Directs the commissioner of education to appoint a media literacy advisory group to identify best practices and recommend appropriate policies at the state and district level; requires such group to survey all school districts to see if media literacy is already being taught
- **A6153A (Rosenthal):** Requires teachers and library media specialists to complete professional development related to media literacy education
- **A6225A (Rosenthal):** Requires a school library media specialist in each elementary, intermediate, middle, junior high and senior high school
- **A8222 (Rosenthal):** Creates a set of media literacy standards for students in grades K-12

Why media literacy education is critical for our kids

These bills are needed to aid our teachers in providing a well-rounded education that is appropriate for the 21st century. Not only will this push for media literacy education enhance our children’s instructional experience by requiring a library media specialist in each and every school, but it also provides our educators with the tools and professional development needed to effectively develop students’ skills.