

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE, No. 588

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 2, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 588.

This bill directs the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in the separate content area of Information Literacy. As defined in the bill, the term “information literacy” means a set of skills that enables an individual to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to, digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy.

Under the bill, the content area of Information Literacy will include instruction on, at minimum:

- (1) the research process and how information is created and produced;
- (2) critical thinking and using information resources;
- (3) research methods, including the difference between primary and secondary sources;
- (4) the difference between facts, points of view, and opinions;
- (5) accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources;
- (6) the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information; and
- (7) the ethical production of information.

Also under the bill, the State board will convene a committee comprised of educators, the majority of which will include certified school library media specialists, as well as teachers across a broad spectrum of subject areas, and Department of Education personnel to develop New Jersey Student Learning Standards in the separate content area of Information Literacy. The committee will engage experts to review the standards it develops. The bill also requires that prior to adopting New Jersey Student Learning Standards in the separate content area of Information Literacy, the State board will conduct at least one public hearing in the northern part of the State, at least one public hearing in the central part of the State, and at least one public hearing in the Southern part of the State for the purpose of permitting the public to comment on the rigor, clarity, and reasonableness of the standards developed by the committee.