

# SENATE, No. 588

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**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 Stanfield**

**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: 5/9/2022)**

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 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.