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)

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

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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.

14 2. A school district shall incorporate instruction on information 15 literacy in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in each of the grades kindergarten through 12. The instruction shall be 16 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 manner adapted to the age and understanding of the students and 20 shall provide a thorough and comprehensive treatment of the 21 22 subject.

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

30 (1) knowledge of the research process and the ways in which31 information is created and produced;

32 (2) skills in using information resources and critical thinking33 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 through39 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.

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

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

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

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4 4. a. Following the development of the curriculum guidelines 5 on information literacy pursuant to section 3 of this act, the commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey State Librarian, 6 7 in-service training programs shall establish 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 programs available to such other instructional and supervisory staff 16 17 as he deems necessary and appropriate.

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

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23 The commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey State 5. 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 The evaluation of instructional programs on information State. 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.

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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) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). P.L., c. (C. 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.

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

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

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STATEMENT

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 guidelines on information literacy to be used by school districts. 16 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 how information is created and produced; (2) skills in using 20 information resources and critical thinking about those resources; 21 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 The in-service training programs will provide the grade. 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.

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- 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.