

Name
Address
Email
Phone number

Dear Assembly Member [Last Name] / Senator [Last Name],

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor the following bills: [Bill Number] [Bill Name], [Bill Number] [Bill Name], and [Bill Number] [Bill Name]. These bills would improve literacy proficiency rates and academic outcome potentials for all students throughout our state.

For over a decade two-thirds of NYS students in 4th and 8th grade have shown they are below expected proficiency rates in reading (NAEP, 2019). NYSED data also shows that over 50% of NYS students continue to score below proficiency standards in ELA (reading and writing). These numbers have remained consistent for more than 10 years and indicate instruction is not meeting the needs of the majority of NYS students throughout the state. Struggling readers and those diagnosed with dyslexia are the most negatively affected students, as well as students with other disabilities and marginalized groups, especially those with less socioeconomic means.

Decades of reading research has demonstrated how reading skills are effectively acquired. The same instructional methods that have proven to work best for students struggling to read or dyslexic students also work best for all students learning how to read. Instructional methods and programs based on the science of reading are considered evidence-based best practices for teaching reading. This is based on the consensus of decades of reading research that have proven these are the instructional practice methods that produce highest gains for the majority of all students.

NYS ranks near the bottom nationally for teacher training on literacy curricula based on the science of reading. This negatively impacts reading instruction delivered to students in all classrooms. The [Bill Name and Number, *example: A.2897 Right to Read Act*], would [give detailed description of what the bill proposes and how it means to advance improvements in literacy outcomes]. The [Bill Name and Number, *example: A.2897 Right to Read Act*], would [give detailed description of what the bill proposes and how it means to advance improvements in literacy outcomes]. The [Bill Name and Number, *example: A.2897 Right to Read Act*], would [give detailed description of what the bill proposes and how it means to advance improvements in literacy outcomes]. ***Reference our website for a list of current bills and their proposals to include in your letter.**

All students deserve access to evidence-based reading instruction grounded in the science of reading—the approach proven to yield the highest gains in literacy achievement. This would mitigate many socioeconomic disparities related to educational outcome potentials while decreasing the need for intensive intervention and special education referrals. We must ensure an equal opportunity for all students to receive an education that prepares every student to reach proficiency standards in reading. Only then are all students afforded the opportunity to reach their academic potentials since literacy is the ultimate cornerstone for all academic success.

Sincerely,

Name
Address
Email
Phone number