



2019 Annual Report

**New York State Standing Committee
on Education**

**Senator Shelley B. Mayer
Chairperson**



**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



SHELLEY B. MAYER
SENATOR, 37TH DISTRICT
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER FOR
SENATE/ASSEMBLY RELATIONS

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Corporations, Authorities and
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January 15, 2020

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Education for the 2019 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction,

During the 2019 session, this committee met eight times in session and reported seventy-one bills. The Committee, along with the Budget and Revenues Committee, also held two public hearings on the Foundation Aid Formula, one with national experts, and five regional roundtables to learn from local stakeholders. We also co-sponsored a hearing with the Health and Consumer Affairs Committees on issues regarding vaping.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the committee this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley B. Mayer".

Shelley B. Mayer

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Chairperson

Committee Members

Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo	Sen. Betty Little, Ranking Member
Sen. John E. Brooks	Sen. Andrew J. Lanza
Sen. Robert Jackson	Sen. Kenneth P. LaValle
Sen. John C. Liu	Sen. Joseph E. Robach
Sen. Monica R. Martinez	Sen. James L. Seward
Sen. Jen Metzger	
Sen. Velmenette Montgomery	
Sen. José M. Serrano	
Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky	

Committee Staff

Georgia Ascutto, Committee Director
Martha Mahoney and Andrew Buder, Committee Clerk

Counsel Staff

Lonnie Threatte, Assistant Deputy Counsel
Amanda Godkin, Senior Counsel

Finance Staff

Michael Swanson, Director of Education
Josh Korn, Budget Analyst

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Education has legislative oversight responsibilities for primary and secondary schools' requirements including Pre-K to twelfth grade as well as public libraries and services to adults with special needs. Issues before the committee range from teacher qualifications, curriculum requirements, school district operations and school and library budget votes and elections. The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Education has a diverse range of topics within its jurisdiction.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, three hundred sixty-five bills were referenced to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, seventy were reported from the Committee. Sixty-two were passed by the Senate, and thirty-seven passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of eight committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held **eight** hearings and/or roundtable meetings. Topics of these hearings and/or roundtables included Foundation Aid and Vaping.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2019:

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S1262	Mayer	Relates to state assessments and teacher evaluations; makes certain provisions permanent.	Chapter 27
S1624	Skoufis	Relates to allowing boards of education of every school district to require minors who are five years of age to attend kindergarten.	Chapter 703
S4009	Mayer	Relates to the probationary period for certain tenured employees in school districts; makes such probationary period last for 3 years rather than 4 years.	Chapter 471
S4070B	Biaggi	Requires the commissioner of education to make recommendations to the board of regents relating to instruction on preventing child sexual exploitation and child abuse in grades kindergarten through eight.	Chapter 187
S4166A	Addabbo	Authorizes the observance of September 11th Remembrance Day and provides for a brief period of silence on such day.	Chapter 248
S4448	Persaud	Makes permanent certain provisions relating to citizenship requirements for permanent certification as a teacher.	Chapter 422
S5184	Mayer	Relates to military voters and ballots for election of members of the board of education and school district public library trustees, and the adoption of the annual budget and school district public library budget and referenda.	Chapter 489
S5589	Mayer	Provides that state aid may be provided for up to 90% of the total project approved costs for buildings of public libraries that are located in an economically distressed community.	Chapter 381
S5590	Mayer	Provides that certain coordinated applications for state aid be submitted by the public library system.	Chapter 389

S5629	Mayer	Authorizes boards of cooperative educational services to enter into contracts with preschool special education program providers to process services relating to online application systems for educators.	Chapter 331
S5705	Mayer	Relates to including bus drivers and monitors as school personnel for policies and procedures concerning school safety plans on school busses.	Chapter 525

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2019, 37 of the 365 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Education passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed twenty-seven and vetoed nine.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S644A	Boyle	Validates certain acts of the Islip Union Free school district with regard to certain capital improvement projects including project numbers 0003-12, 0011-007, 0011-008, 0003-013, 0007-009, 0007-010, 0007-012 and 0011-009.	Vetoed – Memo. 127
S1239A	Serino	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Spackenkill union free school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports.	Chapter 452
S1262	Mayer	Amd §3012-d, Ed L; amd Part AA Subpart B §2, Chap 56 of 2014 Relates to state assessments and teacher evaluations; makes certain provisions permanent.	Chapter 27
S1624	Skoufis	Amd §3205, Ed L Relates to allowing boards of education of every school district to require minors who are five years of age to attend kindergarten.	Chapter 703
S1660A	Skoufis	Amd §305, Ed L Authorizes and directs the commissioner of education to develop a program for veterans who served on active duty to receive high school diplomas.	Chapter 477
S1777	Skoufis	Validates certain acts of the Newburgh Enlarged city school district and the Chester Union Free school district with regard to capital improvement projects and provides for payment of state aid for such projects.	Chapter 38
S2038A	Carlucci	Amd §2018-a, Ed L Relates to the information which must be included on applications for absentee ballots for school district elections.	Chapter 616

S2611	Metzger	Validates certain acts by the Roscoe central school district in connection with final building cost reports required to be filed with the education department.	Chapter 463
S2890	Salazar	Amd §2, Chap 670 of 2007 Extends provisions of law amending the education law relating to directing the commissioner of education to promulgate regulations limiting the engines of school vehicles to remain idling while parked or standing on school grounds.	Chapter 49
S2976	Gaughran	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Huntington union free school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports.	Vetoed – Memo 129
S2977	Gaughran	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming a transportation contract of the Cold Spring Harbor central school district.	Vetoed – Memo 130
S4009	Mayer	Amd §§2509, 2573, 3012 & 3014, Ed L Relates to the probationary period for certain tenured employees in school districts; makes such probationary period last for 3 years rather than 4 years.	Chapter 471
S4070B	Biaggi	Add §803-b, Ed L Requires the commissioner of education to make recommendations to the board of regents relating to instruction on preventing child sexual exploitation and child abuse in grades kindergarten through eight.	Chapter 187
S4166A	Addabbo	Amd §802, Ed L Authorizes the observance of September 11th Remembrance Day and provides for a brief period of silence on such day	Chapter 248
S4333	Metzger	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Monticello central school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports.	Vetoed – Memo 131
S4448	Persaud	Amd §2, Chap 658 of 2002 Makes permanent certain provisions relating to citizenship requirements for permanent certification as a teacher.	Chapter 422
S4663B	Carlucci	Amd §§807-a & 807-c, Ed L Relates to fire inspections in public and private schools; requires annual fire safety reports.	Chapter 679
S4949A	Harckham	Validates certain acts of the Mahopac Central school district with regard to certain capital improvement projects.	Vetoed – Memo 132

S4957	Seward	Authorizes the Schenevus central school district to apply to the commissioner of education to receive an apportionment to be used for services and expenses of such school district and to support its educational programs and any liability in carrying out the functions and responsibilities of such district.	Chapter 40
S5184	Mayer	Add §2018-d, amd §2613, Ed L Relates to military voters and ballots for election of members of the board of education and school district public library trustees, and the adoption of the annual budget and school district public library budget and referenda.	Chapter 489
S5224B	Kennedy	Rpld §2553 sub 10 ¶d sub¶ 3, amd §2553, Ed L Provides for the election of members of the board of education of the Buffalo city school district in November rather than in May; creates a timetable for the electoral proceedings therefor; extends the terms of current members of such board to the last day of December rather than June; provides for future terms to run from January through December; and staggers terms.	Chapter 561
S5522A	Skoufis	Directs the department of education to study the frequency of residents who are being assessed library taxes for more than one library district and to make recommendations to address the double taxation of residents.	Vetoed Memo 166
S5589	Mayer	Amd §273-a, Ed L Provides that state aid may be provided for up to 90% of the total project approved costs for buildings of public libraries that are located in an economically distressed community.	Chapter 381
S5590	Mayer	Amd §273-a, Ed L Provides that certain coordinated applications for state aid be submitted by the public library system.	Chapter 389
S5629	Mayer	Amd §1950, Ed L Authorizes boards of cooperative educational services to enter into contracts with preschool special education program providers to process services relating to online application systems for educators.	Chapter 331
S5649	Gallivan	Validates certain acts of the Mount Morris central school district with regard to two capital improvement projects and provides for payment of state aid for such projects	Chapter 475
S5705	Mayer	Amd §2801-a, Ed L Relates to including bus drivers and monitors as school personnel for policies and procedures concerning school safety plans on school busses.	Chapter 525
S5757	Mayer	Amd §3604, rpld §3604 subs 7-a & 7-b, Ed L Relates to the attendance of minors upon full day instruction and the conditions under which districts are entitled to an apportionment of state aid.	Chapter 605

S5794A	May	Authorizes the Liverpool central school district to receive state aid for certain approved capital funded projects	Vetoed Memo 133
S5863A	Jackson	Amd §305, Ed L Directs a study on the feasibility of adjusting the compulsory attendance age of minors attending full time instruction; on or before July 1, 2021.	Vetoed Memo 186
S5946B	May	Amd §3602, Ed L Establishes the Syracuse city school district regional STEAM high school to provide instruction to students in the Onondaga, Cortland and Madison county BOCES and the central New York region in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).	On the Governor's Desk
S6201	O'Mara	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming certain transportation contracts of the Corning city school district in the 2017-2018 school year.	Vetoed Memo 134
S4007A	Mayer	Relates to the probationary period for certain tenured employees in school districts	Chapter 345
S5323	Mayer	Extends authority to BOCES to lease real property	Chapter 61
S5603	Mayer	Extends certain provisions relating to the public library construction grant program	Chapter 192
S5636A	Carlucci	Relates to certain contracts with out-of-state schools	Chapter 67
S5768	Mayer	Relates to the scheduling of annual meetings of boards of education	Chapter 526

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S179	Serrano	Add §817, Ed L Directs the state education commissioner to require public school districts to report on compliance with art education instruction requirements.	Passed Senate
S644A	Felder	Directs the commissioner of education to study and report on the provision of services to public school students in grades 8 through 12 by guidance counselors.	Passed Senate
S725	Montgomery	Amd §2590-h, Ed L Requires that all special education students attending schools scheduled to be closed or to undergo a significant change be assigned to new schools prior to the implementation of the closing or change.	Passed Senate

S934	O'Mara	Authorizes state reimbursement to the Jasper-Troupsburg central school district for the purchase of school buses.	Passed Senate
S1491A	Jacobs	Add §262-a, amd §§355 & 6206, Ed L; amd §4310, Pub Health L Authorizes registration as an organ donor in the donate life registry on SUNY, CUNY and library card applications.	Senate Finance
S1534	Kennedy	Amd §3641, Ed L Relates to supplemental aid impact grants.	Passed Senate
S1658	Skoufis	Amd §2002, Ed L Provides that school districts may hold elections in any building owned or leased by the district, in addition to any district schoolhouse	Passed Senate
S2439	Comrie	Amd §305, Ed L Requires the commissioner of education to make recommendations to the board of regents relating to the adoption of instruction in information relating to blood, bone marrow and organ and tissue donations in senior high schools.	Referred to Rules
S2482A	Sanders	Add §3638, Ed L Relates to establishing a task force on safety in school transportation to review and promote such safety.	Passed Senate
S2578	Bailey	Authorizes and directs the commissioner of education to conduct a study regarding ecological literacy and healthy living curriculum in schools, and to provide recommendations in a report.	Referred to Rules
S2746	Addabbo	Establishes a task force to study and make recommendations on school safety in the state of New York.	Passed Senate
S2922	Stavisky	Amd §4403, Ed L Relates to the request by parents for translated documents for students with disabilities.	Passed Senate
S3058	Gaughran	Amd §305, Ed L Relates to requiring nonpublic schools to follow the same rules and regulations as public schools regarding a pupil who suffers a concussion, regarding training to recognize the symptoms of a concussion, information to be provided to the parent or guardian of such pupil and the amount of time such pupil shall wait before resuming an athletic activity.	Passed Senate
S3335	Kaminsky	Amd §§3905, 2590-h & 3001-d, Ed L Requires nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools to require their prospective employees to submit fingerprints through the commissioner of education for the purpose of criminal background checks; authorizes conditional appointment of employees by such schools pending determination of the criminal background check.	Passed Senate

S3772	Addabbo	Amd §922, Ed L Requires high schools to carry and have a trained employee to administer opioid antagonists during all school hours and after school activities.	Passed Senate
S3873	May	Amd §1950, Ed L Relates to establishing a young farmer apprentice program.	Passed Senate
S4008C	Mayer	Add §817, Ed L Relates to student governments in secondary schools.	Passed Senate
S4462	Mayer	Amd §§3641, 3602 & 409-d, rpld §§409-d & 409-e, Ed L Relates to building condition surveys; provides a schedule requiring school districts to conduct building condition surveys accordingly; provides for building aid for periodic inspections of public school buildings; provides that the commissioner of education may require periodic inspections of public school buildings as deemed necessary to maintain the safety of school buildings and the welfare of the occupants under the commissioner's public school building safety program.	Enacting Clause Stricken
S5027	Parker	Add §3615, Ed L Establishes the bilingual teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program to attract and retain bilingual, certified teachers in areas of greatest need, especially schools under registration review; provides for grants and procedures for applying for such grants and eligibility requirements for fund distribution.	Referred to Finance
S5073A	Mayer	Add Art 25 §1301, Ed L Establishes a school voter registration access program to promote student voter registration and pre-registration.	Passed Senate
S5192	Mayer	Amd §4405, Ed L Relates to the methodology of rates to reimburse special education schools.	Referred to Rules
S5394A	Jackson	Amd §305, Ed L Provides for a parent to choose to opt their student out of the grade three through eight English language arts and math state assessments, and requires the commissioner of education to provide notice to parents of such right.	Passed Senate
S5528	Harckham	Directs the education department to study, review and report on the placement of the county of Westchester in the Hudson Valley region for purposes of public school foundation aid, and the appropriateness of placing such county in the Long Island/New York city region for such purposes.	Passed Senate
S5602	Mayer	Amd §211-f, Ed L Relates to the takeover and restructuring of failing schools.	Referred to Rules

S5707A	Mayer	Amd §§1604, 1709, 2503 & 2554, Ed L Details the procedure that districts must follow when dealing with disciplinary actions for bus drivers and bus drivers' assistants.	Referred to Rules
S5719	Jackson	Amd §3635-b, Ed L Adds additional factors to be considered when determining if a child safety zone should be considered hazardous.	Passed Senate
S5769	Metzger	Relates to payments in lieu of taxes paid to the Minisink Valley central school district by Competitive Power Ventures.	Referred to Rules
S5808	Montgomery	Establishes a task force on educator diversity in New York state to study the presence of educator diversity.	Passed Senate
S5883A	Skoufis	Amd §1804, Ed L Establishes school election wards in the Washingtonville Central School District.	Passed Senate
S5884A	Skoufis	Amd §1702, Ed L Establishes school election wards in the Chester Union Free School District.	Passed Senate
S6062	Brooks	Amd §§403-b & 1709, Ed L Authorizes school districts to enter into a lease outside of such school district when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commissioner of education that extenuating circumstances exist which necessitate a lease outside of the school district.	Passed Senate
S6179A	Skoufis	Amd §1804, Ed L Establishes school election wards in the Warwick Valley Central School District.	Passed Senate



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ON EDUCATION