



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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## NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION



**Senator Shelley B. Mayer**  
**Chair**



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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

Chair  
Education  
Committees  
Elections  
Corporations, Authorities and  
Commissions  
Housing, Construction and Community  
Development  
Labor  
Racing, Gaming and Wagering  
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December 20, 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 2020 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2020 session, this committee met five times in session and reported thirty-seven bills. The Committee also held one joint hearing on the Executive Budget and one roundtable on addressing Covid-19 health and safety issues for schools.

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".

**2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Senator Shelley 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. Velmanette Montgomery	
Sen. José M. Serrano	
Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky	

Committee Staff

Georgia Ascitutto, Committee Director  
Andrew Buder, Committee Clerk

Counsel Staff

Lonnie Threatte, Assistant Deputy Counsel  
Amanda Godkin, Senior Counsel

Finance Staff

Michael Swanson, Director of Education  
Monica Saladi, Senior Budget Analyst

## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Education has legislative oversight responsibilities for primary and secondary schools including Pre-K to twelfth grade as well as public libraries and services to adults with special needs. Policy issues before the committee include a broad range of areas including 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 2020 Legislative Session, three hundred thirty-four bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, thirty-seven were reported from the committee. Seventeen education bills were passed by the Senate and thirteen passed in both houses with four being signed into law. The committee held five regular meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to regular meetings, the committee held one joint hearing on the Executive Budget with the Senate Finance Committee and respective Assembly Committees and one roundtable with invited guests to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on schools, students, teachers, staff and parents.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2020:

Many of the bills acted on by the committee were in response to critical education issues facing school districts and students. These measures included legislation to enhance diversification within the teacher corps and school building leadership, ensure school districts receive their full state aid, enhance opportunities for student civic engagement, expand library construction programs and establish an agriculture program for students educated at Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). These bills are referenced below.

S.7642 Jackson  
S.7647 Persuad  
S.7996B Carlucci  
S.7037 Gaughran  
S.7038 Gaughran  
S.7370 Metzger  
S.7635 Liu  
S.4008C Mayer  
S.5073 Mayer  
S.8021 May  
S.8530 Carlucci  
S.8410 Mayer  
S.3873A May

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2020, thirteen of the three hundred thirty-four bills referred to the Standing Committee on Education passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed four and vetoed seven.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>S3873A</b>	<b>May</b>	Authorizes and directs boards of cooperative educational services to establish an agriculture program for students	Chapter 298 of 2020
<b>S5140B</b>	<b>Kavanagh</b>	Relates to the use of biometric identifying technology	Awaiting action
<b>S7034</b>	<b>Borrello</b>	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Panama central school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports	Vetoed, Memo 56.
<b>S7037</b>	<b>Gaughran</b>	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming a transportation contract of the Cold Spring Harbor central school district	Vetoed, Memo 61
<b>S7038</b>	<b>Gaughran</b>	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 62
<b>S7152</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Redefines military service to include the United States Merchant Marine Academy	Chapter 300 of 2020
<b>S7370</b>	<b>Metzger</b>	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 69
<b>S7775</b>	<b>Ritchie</b>	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms a transportation contract of the Fulton city school district	Vetoed, Memo 58
<b>S7996B</b>	<b>Carlucci</b>	Provides that school districts, including the city school district of the city of New York, are entitled to an apportionment of state aid for the closure of schools due in response to the novel coronavirus	Chapter 107 of 2020
<b>S8014C</b>	<b>Harckham</b>	Provides that certain schools shall experience no financial harm for reduced	Awaiting Action

		enrollment or inability to operate for the full 180 session days due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019	
<b>A8021</b>	<b>May</b>	Authorizes the Liverpool central school district to receive state aid for certain approved capital funded projects	Vetoed, Memo 57
<b>S8410</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to aid for library construction	Chapter 120 of 2020
<b>S8530</b>	<b>Carlucci</b>	Relates to validating certain acts by the Pearl union free school district in connection with final building cost reports required to be filed with the state education department	Vetoed, Memo 63.



## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
<b>S311</b>	<b>Felder</b>	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
<b>S2170A</b>	<b>Bailey</b>	Authorizes and directs the commissioner of education to conduct a study on the number of children who are caregivers and how being a caregiver impacts their education	Passed Senate
<b>S2922</b>	<b>Stavisky</b>	Relates to the request by parents for translated documents for students with disabilities	Reported to Finance
<b>S3335</b>	<b>Kaminsky</b>	Requires nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools to require their prospective employees to submit fingerprints for the purpose of criminal background checks	Reported to Finance
<b>S3772</b>	<b>Addabbo</b>	Requires high schools to carry and have a trained employee to administer opioid antagonists	Reported to the Floor
<b>S3875</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to reimbursement for studies for districts subject to reorganization	Reported to Finance
<b>S4008C</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to student governments in secondary schools	Passed Senate
<b>S4209</b>	<b>Metzger</b>	Relates to ratifying and validating certain school district building projects	Reported to Finance
<b>S4781A</b>	<b>Parker</b>	Relates to requiring a principal, superintendent or a principal's or superintendent's designee to notify law enforcement if they believe a hate crime is occurring	Reported to the Floor
<b>S5073</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Establishes a school voter registration access program	Passed Senate
<b>S5719</b>	<b>Jackson</b>	Relates to adding additional factors that should be considered when determining if a child safety zone should be considered hazardous	Passed Senate

<b>S5808A</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	Establishes a task force on educator diversity in New York state	Passed Senate
<b>S6062</b>	<b>Brooks</b>	Authorizes school districts to enter into a lease outside of such school district	Passed Senate
<b>S7105</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to standardized vaping and e-cigarette school guidelines	Reported to Rules
<b>S7529</b>	<b>Myrie</b>	Clarifies that individuals have the ability to vote by absentee ballot where their maximum sentence of imprisonment has expired	Reported to the Floor
<b>S7587</b>	<b>Skoufis</b>	Permits union free and central school district boards of education to establish wards for the purpose of school board elections in Orange County	Passed Senate
<b>S7635</b>	<b>Liu</b>	Relates to developing grow your own initiatives at school districts, boards of cooperative educational services and higher education institutions	Passed Senate
<b>S7642</b>	<b>Jackson</b>	Relates to directing the commissioner to convene statewide and regional conventions to bring together underrepresented educators	Passed Senate
<b>S7647</b>	<b>Persaud</b>	Establishes the underrepresented teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program	Passed Senate
<b>S7650</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to replacing certain instances of the words handicapping conditions with disabilities	Passed Senate
<b>S7995A</b>	<b>Skoufis</b>	Creates a state-wide literacy education advocacy program	Passed Senate
<b>S8545</b>	<b>May</b>	Permits the Liverpool central school district to establish an insurance reserve fund	Passed Senate
<b>S8585A</b>	<b>May</b>	Authorizes school districts to use school transportation aid to pay for the cost and expenses of transporting and delivering meals, homework materials and any other school materials to students during	Passed Senate
<b>S8623</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to special act school districts and special education	Passed Senate





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