



Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on
Education

Senator Shelley B. Mayer

Chair

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader



CHAIR
EDUCATION
ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

COMMITTEES
ELECTIONS
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
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RULES

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



SHELLEY B. MAYER
SENATOR, 37TH DISTRICT
MAJORITY ASSISTANT WHIP
CO-CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

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January 6, 2026

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 2025 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. I want to thank you for your continued leadership, especially your efforts during this year's budget negotiations to reform and improve the Foundation Aid Formula. This year's budget reflected our conference's ongoing commitment to investing in schools and students, and it included landmark legislation to make our schools phone free. Students, teachers, and school communities are already seeing that change pay dividends.

During the 2025 Session, this Committee met seven times and reported 53 bills. The Committee also held a stakeholder engagement meeting on math education.

I want to thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the Committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley B. Mayer".

Shelley B. Mayer

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Senator Shelley B. Mayer,
Chairperson**

Committee Members

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

Siela A. Bynoe

Cordell Cleare

Simcha Felder

Robert Jackson

John C. Liu

Monica R. Martinez

Julia Salazar

Toby Ann Stavisky

Sam Sutton

James N. Tedisco, Ranking Member

Stephen T. Chan

Daniel G. Stec

Bill Weber

Alexis Weik

Committee Staff

Karen Reppy, Committee Director

Sofia Berry, Committee Clerk

Counsel Staff

Dave Thoman, Assistant Deputy Director

Christiana Wierschem, Associate Counsel

Finance Staff

Malik Dare, Director of Education

Tyler Del Guidice, Senior Analyst

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Education has legislative oversight for issues concerning primary and secondary school requirements, including Pre-K to twelfth grade, as well as budget oversight for public libraries and services for adults with special needs. Issues before the Committee include teacher qualifications, school district operations, and school and library budget votes and elections.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 376 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 53 were reported from the Committee, 39 were passed by the Senate, and 15 passed in both houses. This work was conducted over the course of seven committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the Committee is provided at the end of this report.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the Committee in 2025:

- **S.1349C (Cleare)** – Chapter 419 of the Laws of 2025. Requires school districts to provide information regarding water safety to parents or students upon enrollment
- **S.2594 (Mayer)** – Chapter 422 of the Laws of 2025. Requires nonpublic schools provide and maintain on-site automatic external defibrillators on school grounds
- **S.4544B (Hoylman-Sigal)** – Chapter 480 of the Laws of 2025. Enacts the “Jack Reid Law: Protect All Students Act”
- **S.5539A (Baskin)** – Chapter 189 of the Laws of 2025. Requires schools safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan
- **S.5568 (Fahy)** – Chapter 615 of the Laws of 2025. Establishes a center for dyslexia and dysgraphia
- **S.7855E (Liu)** – Chapter 639 of the Laws of 2025. Authorizes a survey regarding instruction on the Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander history within the state; establishes an advisory committee
- **S.1111 (May)** – Creates a single, streamlined process whereby combination pre-kindergarten and daycare programs may be certified to operate
- **S.6318A (May)** – Requires instruction in arts and music education to be incorporated into curriculums for all public school students

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES, AND NOMINATIONS

The Committee held a virtual stakeholder engagement meeting on October 16, 2025, about math education in New York State. The meeting included educators, administrators, national experts, parents, and other stakeholders. It offered a chance for members of the Committee to hear from stakeholders about the state of math education in New York State, learn about ongoing work to improve outcomes for students, and begin a conversation about potential State-level action to better support educators, students, and districts.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.01349C	CLEARE	Requires school districts to provide information regarding water safety to parents or students upon enrollment.	Chaptered 419
S.02589	MAYER	Clarifies valid reasons to obtain an absentee ballot for elections in school districts which do not utilize poll registration.	Chaptered 541
S.02590	MAYER	Requires nonpublic schools provide and maintain on-site automatic external defibrillator (AED) equipment on school grounds and assure that AED equipment is available for off-site curricular events, extracurricular events or school-sponsored athletic events.	Chaptered 422
S.03735	MAYER	Empowers the commissioner of education to declare a disaster has substantially impacted an annual meeting and election and to allow school boards to set an additional day for voting if less than eight percent of registered voters cast ballots as a direct consequence of a disaster.	Chaptered 547
S.04544B	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Prohibits discrimination against and harassment or bullying of students by other students on school property or at a school function; requires schools to investigate reports of bullying; requires schools to adopt a written, plain-language anti-bullying and harassment policy; requires school employees to report incidents of bullying or harassment.	Chaptered 480

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.05539A	BASKIN	Requires schools safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the use of appropriate personnel and measures to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site owned or operated by a school or at a location of a school sponsored event.	Substituted By A.785A - Chaptered 189
S.06737	FAHY	Relates to the date of school district annual organizational meetings; allows boards of education to meet on any date on or before the Monday after July 20th for their annual organizational meeting.	Substituted By A.4683 - Chaptered 515
S.07157B	COONEY	Authorizes an additional \$125 million for Phase 3 of the Rochester school facilities modernization program; extends phase 3 of the Rochester school facilities modernization program to 2033.	Substituted By A.7385A - Chaptered 527

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00057	GALLIVAN	Makes permanent the provisions relating to services to out-of-state school districts by boards of cooperative educational services.	Senate Rules
S.00312	SKOUFIS	Relates to complaints concerning the moral character of individuals who hold or who are applicants for New York State teaching certificates.	Enacting Clause Stricken
S.00460	RHOADS	Prohibits the commissioner from promulgating any rules or regulations which prevent schools from disallowing biologically male students at birth to participate on a team organized for females where a school determines such biological male student's participation would have an adverse effect on the physical or emotional safety of female participants, or would adversely impact a female student's ability to participate successfully in interschool athletic competition.	Reported to Senate Codes
S.00519	PERSAUD	Establishes the underrepresented teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program to attract and retain underrepresented certified teachers in schools which have an underrepresentation of underrepresented certified teachers; provides for grants and procedures for applying for such grants and eligibility requirements for fund distribution.	Passed the Senate
S.00523	MAYER	Relates to reimbursement for studies for districts subject to reorganization when appropriated.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00528	MAYER	Relates to the salaries of certain teachers and aides employed by boards of cooperative educational services; puts limits on certain administrative and clerical expenses.	Reported to Senate Finance

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.00591A	HINCHEY	Permits a school food authority to attribute moneys spent on purchases of food products from New York state farmers, growers, producers or processors made for its school breakfast program to the thirty percent of costs for school breakfast, snack and lunch service programs.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.00594	HINCHEY	Requires all public school districts, charter schools and non-public schools in the state that participate in the national school lunch program or school breakfast program as provided in the national child nutrition act to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.01111	MAY	Creates a single, streamlined process whereby a facility or program operating both a pre-kindergarten program and a daycare program may apply for and receive any certification, licensing, or other requirement otherwise necessary to operate a pre-kindergarten program or daycare program under the laws of the state.	Passed the Senate
S.01349C	CLEARE	Requires school districts to provide information regarding water safety to parents or students upon enrollment.	Chaptered 419
S.01424	LIU	Prohibits discrimination of students on school property or at a school function based on religious attire, clothing or facial hair.	Passed the Senate
S.01636	BORRELLO	Authorizes the city school district of the city of Salamanca to establish a reserve fund for federal impact aid in the event such aid is reduced.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.01672B	MARTINEZ	Defines the term “construction projects” to mean the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of any school building where a district receives any apportionment for debt service or building aid and the school building is sited within the Long Island region; provides that each contract involving the award of a construction project shall require the use of a project labor agreement for all contractors and subcontractors on such project.	Passed the Senate
S.01938	WEBER	Requires the principal of any high school to allow any local trade union, upon request, to enter the school for the purpose of trade union recruitment, including, but not limited to: making presentations; disseminating literature; and answering questions by students.	Passed the Senate
S.01986	HARCKHAM	Extends the time period from eighteen years to twenty-five years that a school shall be guaranteed recovery of energy performance contract costs from energy savings incurred by school districts over that time period.	Passed the Senate
S.02126	JACKSON	Directs the commissioner to convene statewide and regional conventions to bring together underrepresented educators annually to discuss experiences, best practices, and afford for networking, mentorship opportunities, and support.	Passed the Senate
S.02452	STAVISKY	Requires school districts to screen for gifted and talented students; provides the parents or guardians of such students the option to opt out of such screening.	Passed the Senate
S.02498	GOUNARDES	Decreases the frequency of lock-down drills in schools; directs that such drills shall be implemented with a trauma-informed approach; permits parents to opt their children out of such drills.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.02505	BRISPORT	Establishes a task force to conduct a comprehensive study on the presence of educator diversity in the state, state actions taken to promote educator diversity, and how the state can encourage new initiatives to enhance and promote educator diversity in New York; provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.	Passed the Senate
S.02589	MAYER	Clarifies valid reasons to obtain an absentee ballot for elections in school districts which do not utilize poll registration. Eff. Date 11/21/2025	Chaptered 541
S.02590	MAYER	Requires nonpublic schools provide and maintain on-site automatic external defibrillator (AED) equipment on school grounds and assure that AED equipment is available for off-site curricular events, extracurricular events or school-sponsored athletic events.	Chaptered 422
S.02657	PARKER	Establishes the bilingual teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program to attract and retain bilingual, certified teachers in schools with a bilingual teacher shortage; provides for grants and procedures for applying for such grants and eligibility requirements for fund distribution.	Passed the Senate
S.03071A	SANDERS	Relates to establishing a task force on safety in school transportation to review and promote such safety.	Passed the Senate
S.03084	HELMING	Relates to requiring a service center for independent living to be located in the county of Ontario.	Reported to Senate Disabilities

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.03111	HELMING	Permits the principal of any high school to allow any local fire department, upon request, to enter the school for the purpose of fire department junior recruitment, including, but not limited to: making presentations; disseminating literature; and answering questions by students.	Passed the Senate
S.03334	LIU	Requires the commissioner to establish Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history and civic impact curriculum or instructions for school districts.	Passed the Senate
S.03735	MAYER	Empowers the commissioner of education to declare a disaster has substantially impacted an annual meeting and election and to allow school boards to set an additional day for voting if less than eight percent of registered voters cast ballots as a direct consequence of a disaster.	Chaptered 547
S.03827A	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Prohibits the use of biometric identifying technology in schools for any reason other than certain specified purposes; adds fingerprint identification of teachers, administrators and students for the purpose of securely logging into a digital device for academic and administrative purpose to allowable purposes.	Passed the Senate
S.04037A	SKOUFIS	Relates to the compulsory age for full time instruction from six to five years of age and certain exceptions for minor children.	Senate Rules
S.04434	SKOUFIS	Authorizes the boards of education in union free school districts and central school districts to establish wards for the purpose of school board elections in Orange County.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.04544B	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Prohibits discrimination against and harassment or bullying of students by other students on school property or at a school function; requires schools to investigate reports of bullying; requires schools to adopt a written, plain-language anti-bullying and harassment policy; requires school employees to report incidents of bullying or harassment.	Chaptered 480
S.05067A	SEPÚLVEDA	Directs the commissioner of education to change the name of the state high school equivalency diploma, formerly known as the general education development (GED) program, to the Excelsior diploma.	Passed the Senate
S.05539A	BASKIN	Requires schools safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the use of appropriate personnel and measures to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site owned or operated by a school or at a location of a school sponsored event.	Substituted By A.785A - Chaptered 189
S.06221	MAYER	Relates to building aid for incremental zero-emission school bus infrastructure costs provided through the 2034-2035 school year.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.06273A	BAILEY	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.	On Calendar 779 Opposite House
S.06318A	MAY	Requires instruction in arts and music education to be incorporated into curriculums for all public school students; requires school districts to ensure that appropriately certified teachers are providing such education; authorizes rules and regulations consistent with such provisions.	Passed the Senate

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S.06655	GRIFFO	Allows students attending agricultural learning events to be counted as in attendance at school; defines "agricultural learning events" as including FFA events and 4-H programs.	Senate Rules
S.06734	FAHY	Provides that elections to fill an increased number of seats on a school board will be conducted at the first annual meeting after the meeting during which number of seats was increased.	Passed the Senate
S.06737	FAHY	Relates to the date of school district annual organizational meetings; allows boards of education to meet on any date on or before the Monday after July 20th for their annual organizational meeting.	Substituted By A.4683 - Chaptered 515
S.07157B	COONEY	Authorizes an additional \$125 million for Phase 3 of the Rochester school facilities modernization program; extends phase 3 of the Rochester school facilities modernization program to 2033.	Substituted By A.7385A - Chaptered 527
S.07660	MAYER	Details the procedure that certain school districts must follow when dealing with disciplinary actions for bus drivers and bus drivers' assistants.	Senate Rules
S07788	MAYER	Permits the establishment of reserve funds for unanticipated costs relating to special education, provided that the amount in such fund shall not exceed four percent of the district's current school year budget.	Senate Rules
S.07988	MAYER	Relates to retention of records relating to certain acts of alleged misconduct for the duration of the statute of limitations.	Senate Rules
S.08003	MAYER	Relates to lease terms for zero-emission school buses; permits leases of up to 12 years.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.08076A	SKOUFIS	Directs the commissioner of education to conduct a study of recess held in elementary schools in kindergarten through grade six.	Senate Rules

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