

## ***Establishing Professional Development Requirements for Public Librarians in New York State*** **A Proposal from the New York Library Association**

- Currently, all librarians working in professional librarian positions (full-time and part-time) in public and association libraries in New York State are required to have a professional public librarian certificate issued by the State Education Department. Additionally, public libraries serving populations of over 7,500 must have a certified director (Commissioner's Regulations 90.7 and 90.8).
- Certificate cost is currently a one-time fee of \$5 and granted for life.

### **The Proposal**

- Public librarians will be required to complete 60 hours of professional development activities every five years (the equivalent of one hour a month) in order to maintain active certification.
- Certified librarians failing to meet the 60-hour requirement over the five-year period may apply for a one-year Temporary Certificate. To regain active professional certification, the public librarian with a Temporary Certificate must complete the deficient hours as well as an additional hour per month up to the time of reinstatement.
- This proposal will only affect librarians certified after January 2010.

### **Why Is Professional Development Important?**

- Professional development for public librarians is Regents policy and is part of recommendation nine of *Meeting the Needs of All New Yorkers: Library Service in the New Century: Final Report of the Regents Commission on Library Services* (2000), which states the need to "establish a certification process to promote excellence in New York's library workforce at all stages and levels."
- Ongoing professional development is a key strategy for promoting workforce excellence and is required for many other occupations, including school library media specialists, teachers, engineers, land surveyors, optometrists, accountants, realtors, architects, and more.

### **What Kinds of Professional Development Activities Will Be Accepted?**

- Accepted activities include library related formal classes or courses, workshops, e-courses, seminars, institutes, lectures, supervised internships, instructional activities and state or national library association conference programs and similar activities.
- Providers of such activities will include universities and colleges, government agencies, state or national library associations, library systems and similar organizations.
- The New York State Library will provide lists of State Education Department approved providers and course offerings on the State Library's website.

**For more detailed information visit the NYLA Website at [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org), or contact:**

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