

# Creating the Future: Vision 2020 Update

## Recommendation #27

NYLA Conference 2013

### SUMMARY

#### **Recommendation #27:**

“The provision of robust early childhood education programs and the provision of homework assistance as a core service; the alignment of outreach services with societal priorities, such as teen services and gang prevention.”

The Youth Services Champions offer four proposals to advance Recommendation #27:

#### **Proposal #1:**

##### **New Minimum Standard**

A new Minimum Standard for Public Libraries in NYS that codifies the bedrock services for youth that every NYS library should offer its community. Proposed draft wording:

“Provides services to meet community needs for youth including, but not limited to, regular early literacy programs, summer learning support, homework help, and outreach to teens.”

#### **Proposal #2 - Early Learning:**

##### **Ready to Read at New York Libraries**

“Ready to Read at New York Libraries” is a current project in the early stages and spearheaded by the NYS Library. The Champions propose incorporation of a strong parent engagement component, and to reference the Brooklyn Public Library “Ready, Set, Kindergarten” program as a model.

#### **Proposal #3 - Homework Help:**

##### **Homework Help NYS**

Comprehensive state-funded and free resources compiled in a central web page which may be accessed from, linked to, or adapted by every library in NYS. Resources available will include:

- A broad selection of databases

- A subject-based selection of excellent websites
- Online homework help
- An “Ask-a-teacher service”
- Assistance in leveraging teen volunteers to help younger students with homework through a Teen Study Buddies program

**Proposal #4 - Aligning Outreach to Societal Priorities:**

**Libraries Make a Difference: Bullying Stops Here**

An initiative helping public libraries become “bully-free zones” and the keystone of community efforts to stop bullying.

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## PROPOSAL DETAILS

### **Proposal #1:**

#### **New Minimum Standard**

A new Minimum Standard for Public Libraries in NYS that codifies the bedrock services for youth that every NYS library should offer its community. Proposed draft wording:

“Provides services to meet community needs for youth including, but not limited to, regular early literacy programs, summer learning support, homework help, and outreach to teens.”

#### **Background:**

If we name youth services as core to public libraries - and there can be little compelling argument against serving youth - then we should make that value explicit through the Minimum Standards. Our draft wording comes from specific aspects of recommendation #27 in the Vision 2020 document, with the addition of summer learning support, which we see as also key for youth ages 0 and up.

As we create our vision of what public libraries in New York State should be by Year 2020, we have an opportunity to also determine what a public library in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must be. To make all NYS libraries the cornerstone of democracy and place for lifelong education, we must provide a framework that both inspires and requires libraries to meet higher standards. Among other roles, we believe that a 21<sup>st</sup> century library must serve early learners, keep young learners engaged during the summer through activities, help students succeed at homework, and reach out to teens.

### **Proposal #2 - Early Learning:**

#### **Ready to Read at New York Libraries**

“Ready to Read at New York Libraries” is a current project in the early stages and spearheaded by the NYS Library, which is creating an early literacy advisory board that will focus on a statewide model for early literacy/learning. The Champions’ proposal is to incorporate a strong parent engagement component, and to reference the Brooklyn Public Library “Ready, Set, Kindergarten” program as a model.

### Description:

“Ready to Read at New York Libraries,” a current early-stage project spearheaded by the NYS Library, strengthens early learning services in public libraries through early literacy information, staff training, model programs, and marketing materials that support community advocacy. New additions will focus on parent engagement.

### Need:

According to the document **Creating the Future: A 2020 Vision and Plan for Library Service in New York State**, “the best public libraries are places where the love of learning is instilled at the youngest age and intellectual curiosity encouraged for all.” The document goes on to further recommend that the Board of Regents and State Education Department support initiatives that will encourage “the provision of robust early education programs”.

“Inequality has increased in America, and children living in poverty lack the foundation for success in school. Quality early childhood education is the most effective way to close this achievement gap.” (source: <http://www.ffyf.org/blog-home>) With the implementation and adoption of the Common Core State Standards in New York State, it is *imperative* that an early learning plan that is both developmentally and cognitively sound, while at the same time playful and interactive, be adopted to prepare our most important state resource - our young children - for school success. Many of our smaller libraries in the state do not have trained early childhood librarians on staff. The developmental and cognitive needs of young learners is something that library staff need to be educated in, in order to develop age appropriate programs and services.

The statewide initiative will include:

1. In person, regional trainings on the basics of early learning and literacy to create a benchmark starting point for library staff in the state who work with young children.
2. Online training resources for library staff (webinars, guided chats, mentor contacts, training videos)
3. A well designed, organized website by region of recommended early literacy resources, including partnering agencies and a listing of recommended materials (websites, books, music, toys, etc.) The website will also include areas for library staff and pages libraries can post on their own sites. These parent-targeted pages will include informational videos and other early literacy tips and activity ideas to give young learners the reading readiness skills needed for school success.
4. Conference programs (NYLA Conference and YSS Spring Conference) as well as articles in library publications

5. Marketing materials to educate parents, caregivers, and others statewide on the value of a strong early learning environment, including short video clips that showcase caregivers singing, playing, talking, reading, and writing with young children

### **Goal:**

To educate library staff in providing early literacy services and to increase awareness of the role public libraries serve in offering early learning experiences to all NYS children.

### **Models for this Project:**

- Colorado Libraries for Early Learning [www.clel.org](http://www.clel.org)  
[http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/237\\_Early\\_Literacy\\_.pdf](http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/237_Early_Literacy_.pdf)
- Family Reading Partnership <http://www.familyreading.org/>
- First Five Years @ Brooklyn Public Library  
<http://www.bklynpubliclibrary.org/first-5-years>
- Family Place Libraries <http://www.familyplacelibraries.org/>

### **Stakeholders:**

Public libraries, parents and caregivers, children ages birth through five years, early childhood educators, public library and school district administrators

### **Potential Partners:**

- ALSC and PLA (ALA divisions creating Every Child Ready to Read™ initiative)
- Brooklyn Public Library
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- NYS AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)
- Community and four year colleges with early childhood programs
- United Way of America (Born Learning campaign)
- Head Start centers
- Early Intervention agencies
- First Five Years Fund
- New York State PTA
- NYLA Youth Services Section
- Public Library Systems

**Resources:**

Monetary support to develop an attractive, interactive website for library staff to access for early literacy and early learning resources, publications, regional partners, training links, etc.

Monetary support to provide regional trainings on the basics of early literacy and early learning to create a benchmark level for early learning staff training in New York State.

Considerable staff time devoted to the startup and implementation of both a website and training opportunities.

**Timeframe to implement:**

In order to create the necessary infrastructure needed to cast an early literacy web of learning across the state, a 3-5 year implementation schedule would work best to ensure best practices in early literacy and learning are effectively covered in all aspects of this project, including regional on-site trainings, a dynamic website, and establishing contact with partnering agencies.

**Proposal #3 - Homework Help:****Homework Help NYS**

- A broad selection of databases
- A subject-based selection of excellent websites
- Online homework help
- An “Ask-a-teacher service”
- Assistance in leveraging teen volunteers to help younger students with homework through a Teen Study Buddies program

**Description:**

Comprehensive state-funded and free resources compiled in a central web page which may be accessed from, linked to, or adapted by every library in NYS. Resources available will include:

1. Databases (a broadly-based selection from the following):
  - America the Beautiful
  - Biography in Context
  - Britannica School
  - Britannica SmartMath
  - Britannica Pathways: Science
  - Culture Grams

- Daily Life Through History
  - eLibrary Elementary (currently available through NOVEL)
  - Encyclopedia Americana (currently available through NOVEL)
  - Encyclopedia Britannica Online for Kids
  - Gale Virtual Reference Library
  - Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia (currently available through NOVEL)
  - Kids InfoBits (currently available through NOVEL)
  - Lands & Peoples Online
  - Literature Resource Center
  - Middle Search Plus
  - New Book of Knowledge (currently available through NOVEL)
  - New Book of Popular Science
  - Opposing Viewpoints (currently available through NOVEL)
  - Primary Search
  - Science Online
  - Student Resource Center
2. Websites: A subject-based selection of excellent websites, monitored by a volunteer group of library practitioners.
  3. Online tutoring: A contract with a vendor to provide homework help via an electronic interface.
  4. Ask-a-teacher service: A contract with a group of teachers to provide homework help by phone during specified hours/days. (NYC's Dial-A-Teacher may be a possible contractor or model: <http://www.uft.org/dial-a-teacher>.)
  5. Assistance in leveraging teen volunteers to help younger students with homework through a Teen Study Buddies program, through:
    - A web page with resources to assist libraries in creating the program at their site, including sample documents, library success stories, and mentors
    - An informational webinar, done live and archived, on setting up the program
    - Hosted online chats for library staff to share ideas and get questions answered
    - Programs at NYLA Conference and YSS Spring Conference
    - Articles in library publications
    - Marketing resources

A steering committee of library practitioners will help develop the project.

### **Need:**

The Vision 2020 document, in recommendation #27, identified a need for “the provision of homework assistance as a core service.” Many libraries in NYS do not have the resources to develop a robust online homework help presence, nor do they have adequate staffing to offer homework assistance beyond basic reference questions. There is need for State leadership in providing:

- Electronic resources (databases and recommended websites)
- A well-designed, accessible website that libraries can link to or copy into their own site
- Marketing materials
- One-on-one teacher help by phone to supplement local library staffing

### **Goals:**

To equip libraries to provide homework assistance as a core service, through access to a broad spectrum of online resources, a teacher telephone helpline for students from k - grade 12, and the knowledge and incentive to offer a Teen Study Buddy Homework Help program.

### **Stakeholders:**

Public libraries, students in grades k-12, parents, teachers, school administrators, school boards.

### **Models for this Project:**

<http://homeworknyc.org/for-librarians-classroom-resources>

### **Potential partners:**

- New York State Council of Educational Associations <http://www.nyscea.org/> and its individual association members
- New York State School Boards Association <http://www.nyssba.org/>
- School Administrators Association of New York State <http://www.saanys.org/>
- Teacher unions through NYSUT <http://www.nysut.org/>
- New York State PTA <http://www.nyspta.org/>
- Colleagues in the rest of NYS Education
- Dial-A-Teacher service in New York City <http://www.uft.org/dial-a-teacher>
- Public Library Systems
- National Honor Society <http://www.njhs.us/>
- School Library Systems & BOCES
- Business community
- NYLA Youth Services Section
- Public Library Systems

### **Resources:**

Monetary: Considerable. Exact costs will depend on databases included and contracts for online tutoring and teacher helpline.

State Library Staff time: Initially moderate as program is established; then lower.

**Timeframe to implement:**

To get in sync with the NOVEL contract year, to form and convene an oversight committee, to identify and contract with vendors, and to develop website and marketing materials: maximum of 18 months from decision to go forward.

**Proposal #4 - Aligning Outreach to Societal Priorities:****Libraries Make a Difference: Bullying Stops Here****Description:**

A State-led effort to encourage public libraries to become “bully-free zones” and to become the keystone of community efforts to stop bullying, through:

- Information on bullying
- Program manual with background information on bullying on what it is, ideas for partnerships and advice on getting started, in-house and outreach programs for students and parents
- A webpage pulling national and regional information together for libraries
- Programs at NYLA Conference and YSS Spring Conference
- Articles in library publications
- Marketing resources, including materials for an library-based anti-bullying campaign, coordinated with the DASA (Dignity for All Students Act)  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>

A steering committee of library practitioners will help develop the project.

**Need:**

The Vision 2020 document, in recommendation #27, identified a need for “alignment of outreach services with societal priorities, such as teen services and gang prevention.”

A current societal priority, preventing bullying and cyberbullying, significantly involves teens and is an area where libraries can connect with other community agencies to make a positive difference. Bullying and cyberbullying have become an epidemic throughout the country, with 20% of teens grades 9-12 reporting having experienced bullying (2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System; Center for Disease Control & Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>)

**Goal:**

Every public library in NYS has the knowledge and incentive to become a bully-free zone and to reach out to kids, tweens, and teens with information and help on the issues of bullying and cyberbullying.

**Models for this project:**

<http://www.buffalolib.org/sites/default/files/staffs/testaj/Anti-bully%20calendar%20Final.pdf>

**Stakeholders:**

Public libraries, children grades k-12, parents, teachers, school administrators, community members.

**Potential partners:**

- New York State School Boards Association <http://www.nyssba.org/>
- School Administrators Association of New York State <http://www.saanys.org/>
- Teacher unions through NYSUT <http://www.nysut.org/>
- New York State PTA <http://www.nyspta.org/>
- Colleagues in the rest of NYS Education
- Self Advocacy Association of NYS
- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services  
[http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing/i\\_safety/cyberbullying.htm](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing/i_safety/cyberbullying.htm)
- StopBullying.gov <http://www.stopbullying.gov>
- New York Civil Liberties Union <http://www.nyclu.org>
- Publishers with anti-bullying campaigns
- NYLA Youth Services Section
- Public Library Systems

**Resources:**

Monetary: Low to moderate

NYS Library Staff: Low to moderate initially; minimal on ongoing basis.

**Timeframe to implement:**

Nine months projected.

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**Youth Services Champions**

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