




TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell 

SUBJECT: Reading programs in Libraries

DATE: September 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

A report for committee members of the 2015 Statewide summer reading program and the Ready to Read program for pre-school students, both of which operate out of public libraries across the state.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Education Law section 269 directs the Board to maintain a Library Extension Service, “for the employment of all suitable efforts to bring within the reach of all the people of the state, and awaken their desire for, increased opportunities and facilities for reading and study.” These two programs provide resources to support both reading preparation and maintenance of reading skills.

Background Information

Studies show that library summer reading programs will raise student learning levels and help prevent learning losses during the summer months. *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* is an annual program that brings children and families into local public libraries for reading and activities. Over 1.9 million New York children and teens participated in the program in 2014. The State Library coordinates the program and works with the 23 public library systems throughout the state to provide a summer reading theme, promotional materials, a creative idea manual, and state-level support.

Ready to Read at New York Libraries is a Department initiative designed to improve and expand the availability of high quality public library early learning services in local communities across the State. The program is designed to improve public library services that will help young children start kindergarten with the skills needed for

school success. Through this program, families and caregivers will be provided with the knowledge needed to prepare their young children for their school years ahead. The priority component of *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* through 2019 is the Early Childhood Public Library Staff Development Program, a train-the-trainer program that will strengthen library staff skills to ensure that families and caregivers with young children receive the highest quality services at all of New York's 1,000 public library outlets.

Staff will report on both programs, focusing on the success of the 2015 Statewide summer reading program and the initial results of the statewide training and development activities of the *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* program.