



Annual Report 2024

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

COMMITTEES
Cities 2

Corporations, Authorities
and Commissions

Elections

Judiciary

Labor

Rules

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



SHELLEY B. MAYER
SENATOR, 37TH DISTRICT
**DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER FOR
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December 16, 2024

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 2024 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 fight proposed cuts to Foundation Aid and restore hold-harmless for our districts. This year's budget reflected our conference's ongoing commitment to investing in schools and students, and included key legislation to ensure reading instruction in all our schools is aligned with the science of reading.

During the 2024 session, this committee met seven times and reported 52 bills. The committee took up important matters including our teacher and principal evaluation system, student health and safety issues, and civic engagement.

I want to 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 black ink that reads 'Shelley B. Mayer'.

Shelley B. Mayer

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

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

Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Chairperson

Committee Members

Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.	Sen. James Tedisco, Ranking Member
Sen. Iwen Chu	Sen. Peter Oberacker
Sen. Cordell Cleare	Sen. Daniel G. Stec
Sen. Slimcha Felder	Sen. Bill Weber
Sen. Robert Jackson	Sen. Alexis Weik
Sen. John C. Liu	
Sen. John W. Mannion	
Sen. Monica R. Martinez	
Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky	

Committee Staff

Karen Reppy, Committee Director
Sofia Berry, Committee Clerk

Counsel Staff

Amanda Godkin Esq., Assistant Deputy Counsel
Maria Morrissey Esq., Senior Counsel

Finance Staff

Dave Thoman, 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 to adults with special needs. Issues before the committee range from teacher qualifications, school district operations, and school and library budget votes and elections.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, 395 bills were referred to the committee for its review. Of these bills, 52 were reported from the committee. 42 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 2024:

- S9054 (Mayer) – Chapter 143 of the Laws of 2024. Relates to annual professional performance reviews of teachers and principals; repealer.
- S4598B (Bailey) – Chapter 544 of the Laws of 2024. Relates to school anti-violence activities
- S9018A (Mayer) – Chapter 311 of the Laws of 2024. Allows for the designation of students as ex officio members of school boards; repealer
- S3397A (Skoufis) – Establishes a maximum temperature in school buildings and indoor facilities
- S4550B (May) – Relates to enacting the SIGH act to prohibit the construction of new schools near a major roadway
- S9639A (Skoufis) – Relates to complaints concerning the moral character of individuals who hold or who are applicants for New York State teaching certificates
- S8409B (Mayer) – Requires nonpublic schools provide and maintain on-site automatic external defibrillators on school grounds
- S8363 (May) – Creates a single, streamlined process whereby combination pre-kindergarten and daycare programs may be certified to operate
- S8827A (Bailey) – Requires any student graduating from a high school in New York state be provided with a voter registration form
- S3189A (Hoylman-Sigal) – Enacts the "nonpublic dignity for all students act."

TWO HOUSE BILLS

2024 Senate Education Committee 2 House Bills

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S01160	SKOUFIS	Provides that school districts may hold elections in any building owned or leased by the district, in addition to any district schoolhouse. Eff. Date 03/13/2025	Chaptered 571
S04598D	BAILEY	Provides funding for school anti-violence education programs through the omnibus school violence prevention grant program. Eff. Date 04/17/2025 (See Table)	Chaptered 544
S08674	MAYER	Extends provisions allowing BOCES to enter into private leases for real property.	Substituted By A9469 - Chaptered 132
S08675	MAYER	Extends provisions related to services to out-of-state school districts by boards of cooperative educational services to July 1, 2029.	Substituted By A9470 - Chaptered 133
S09000	MAYER	Extends provisions of law relating to directing the commissioner of education to promulgate regulations limiting the engines of school vehicles to remain idling while parked or standing on school grounds.	Substituted By A9761 - Chaptered 140
S09016	MAY	Renames the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center as the Syracuse Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school.	Substituted By A9934 - Chaptered 309
S09018A	MAYER	Allows for the designation of students as ex officio members of school boards; clarifies what such ex officio members are permitted to do. Eff. Date 07/01/2025	Chaptered 311
S09054	MAYER	Relates to annual professional performance reviews of teachers and principals; establishes an optional system of annual professional performance review plans; repeals provisions relating to streamlined removal procedures for teachers rated ineffective.	Substituted By A9849 - Chaptered 143
S09107A	MAYER	Relates to reserved funds for special educational services for certain children with disabilities. Eff. Date 11/22/2024 (See Table)	Chaptered 521
S09147B	MANNION	Requires the commissioner of education to establish uniform statewide protocols for diapering and toileting of students in public schools.	Substituted By A9777B - Chaptered 361

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

2024 Senate Education Committee Activity

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00075	GALLIVAN	Requires vision screening examinations for students using examination devices and testing methods, including, but not limited to, the Snellen Eye Test Chart and automated vision screening devices.	Senate Rules
S00260	SERRANO	Directs the state education commissioner to require public school districts to report on compliance with art education instruction requirements.	Passed the Senate
S00443	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
S00965	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.	Passed the Senate
S00974	MATTERA	Provides that a minor from six to sixteen years being absent from full time day instruction for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral held in this state for a deceased veteran shall be excused from school.	Senate Rules
S01160	SKOUFIS	Provides that school districts may hold elections in any building owned or leased by the district, in addition to any district schoolhouse. Eff. Date 03/13/2025	Chaptered 571
S01192	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
S01402	LIU	Requires instruction in public schools aligned to the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework; requires the commissioner of education to update learning standards on an ongoing basis and provide technical assistance and resources to aid public schools in providing such instruction.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01448B	SANDERS	Relates to establishing a task force on safety in school transportation to review and promote such safety.	Passed the Senate

S01988	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
S02293	MAYER	Relates to reimbursement for studies for districts subject to reorganization when appropriated.	Reported to Senate Finance
S02699	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.	Reported to Senate Finance
S03057A	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
S03180A	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Prohibits discrimination against and harassment or bullying of students by employees or students on private, religious or denominational school property or at a school function; provides immunity from civil liability for a person making a good faith report of discrimination, harassment or bullying to authorities.	Senate Rules
S03385A	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
S03408	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
S04129	MANNION	Requires nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools to require their prospective employees to submit fingerprints through the commissioner of education for the purpose of criminal background checks; authorizes conditional appointment of employees by such schools pending determination of the criminal background check.	Reported to Senate Finance

S04244	WEIK	Clarifies the application of standardized testing requirements to the general education development exam by explicitly including it in the definition of "standardized test" and "test".	Enacting Clause Stricken
S04505A	LIU	Prohibits discrimination of students on school property or at a school function based on religious attire, clothing or facial hair.	Passed the Senate
S04598D	BAILEY	Provides funding for school anti-violence education programs through the omnibus school violence prevention grant program. Eff. Date 04/17/2025 (See Table)	Chaptered 544
S05024A	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
S05675	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
S05733	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
S05963A	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
S06537A	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
S06980A	MAYER	Requires the dissemination of written materials regarding child access prevention and the safe storage of firearms to students and/or persons in a parental relationship to such students at the beginning of each semester or quarter of the regular school year beginning on and after July 1, 2024.	Passed the Senate
S07018	ADDABBO	Provides for the use of airway clearance devices in schools; provides for training for school employees.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07229A	MAYER	Clarifies valid reasons to obtain an absentee ballot for elections in school districts which do not utilize poll registration.	Passed the Senate

S07233B	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.	Passed the Senate
S07353A	BRISPORT	Relates to the release of student education records to juvenile detention facilities; provides that where a student has been directed to be held in a juvenile detention facility pursuant to a court order, the educational agency where such student attends school at the time of such direction shall, upon request of the juvenile detention facility where such student is held, disclose such educational records to educational program personnel at such facility without consent of the parent or eligible student under certain circumstances. State Education Department	Passed the Senate
S07415	MAYER	Details the procedure that certain school districts must follow when dealing with disciplinary actions for bus drivers and bus drivers' assistants.	Senate Rules
S07605A	STEC	Relates to the computation of building aid for the construction, reconstruction or modernizing of no more than one project by the Boquet Valley Central school district.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08107	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
S08155	MAYER	Extends provisions related to certified school psychologists and special education services and programs for preschool children with handicapping conditions until June 30, 2026.	Senate Rules
S08363	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
S08409B	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.	Passed the Senate

S08674	MAYER	Extends provisions allowing BOCES to enter into private leases for real property.	Substituted By A9469 - Chaptered 132
S08675	MAYER	Extends provisions related to services to out-of-state school districts by boards of cooperative educational services to July 1, 2029.	Substituted By A9470 - Chaptered 133
S08821A	SEPULVEDA	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 high school diploma.	Passed the Senate
S08976B	MAYER	Authorizes the delivery of telehealth services in schools by licensed providers.	Passed the Senate
S09000	MAYER	Extends provisions of law relating to directing the commissioner of education to promulgate regulations limiting the engines of school vehicles to remain idling while parked or standing on school grounds.	Substituted By A9761 - Chaptered 140
S09016	MAY	Renames the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center as the Syracuse Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school.	Substituted By A9934 - Chaptered 309
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