

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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May 1, 2025

Start: 10:12 a.m.

Recess: 10:16 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Rita C. Joseph, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Shahana Hanif  
Kamillah M. Hanks  
Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Farrah N. Louis  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check. Today's date is May 1, 2025. Recording on the  
4 Committee on Education, being recorded by John  
5 Biondo, City Hall Council Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
8 Committee on Education.

9 At this time, we ask that you please be  
10 silent and silent all electronic devices.

11 At no time are you to approach the dais.

12 Chair Joseph, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [GAVEL] Good morning,  
14 and welcome everyone. I'm Council Member Rita Joseph,  
15 Chair of the Committee on Education.

16 Today, the Committee's voting on the  
17 following legislation. Proposed Intro. 1125-A,  
18 sponsored by Council Member Lincoln Restler, a local  
19 law to amend Administrative Code of the City of New  
20 York in relation to requiring the Department of  
21 Education to report on school librarians and library  
22 access in New York City Public Schools. The Committee  
23 previously heard testimony on this legislation at an  
24 April 8th, 2025, hearing on ensuring equity and  
25 access in the arts.

We are joined today by Council Member Lee, Louis, Stevens, Schulman, Krishnan, Narcisse, and, remote, we have Dinowitz, Gutiérrez, Hanif, Hanks, and Sanchez.

Despite state requirement, far too many students in New York City don't have access to certified school librarians. In 2023, Chalkbeat reported that in DOE school system of about 1,600 schools, there are only around 260 certified school librarians. Their analysis also found that nearly a third of City schools with more than 700 students, schools that are required under State law to have certified full-time library did not have one listed in their budgets. These gaps are even more pronounced in schools serving high poverty communities. This bill shines a light on these gaps so we can work towards a future where every student has access to a certified librarians they are entitled to under the law. I encourage all of my Colleagues to vote yes on this important piece of legislation.

I would like to thank my Staff and Committee Staff, and I will now turn to the Clerk to call the roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
4 vote Committee on Education. Proposed Introduction  
5 1125-A. Chair Joseph.

6 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.  
10 Dinowitz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
13 you. Gutiérrez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
16 you. Hanif. Hanks.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
19 you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council  
22 Member Hanif, thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
9 you. Schulman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
14 vote of 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative  
15 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the  
16 Committee.

17 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, and I  
18 close the vote. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 2, 2025