

Whereas, based on the findings of the Information Brief *“The Impact of School Libraries on Student Achievement”* published by the New York Comprehensive Center (August, 2011); extensive research shows that schools that have relied on their libraries to support student growth, specifically in the areas of literacy, information literacy, technological skills and access to resources and equipment, have seen increased motivation, higher assessment scores, and ultimately, higher graduation rates; and

Whereas, with the shift to the Next Generation Standards and a commitment to five key elements of the Regents reform agenda, school libraries with certified school librarians play an important role in student achievement, curriculum development and instruction; and

Whereas, there currently exists an inequity across New York State whereby many elementary and middle school students are denied access to a certified school librarian; and

Whereas, each school is required, per Commissioner’s Regulations Section 91.1, to maintain a school library, a certified school librarian is needed to maximize the effectiveness of the resources contained therein and meet the needs of the pupils; and

Whereas, the final report of the Regents Commission on Library Services, July 14, 2000, recommendation two stated that all NYS students have access to school libraries with certified professional staff; and

Whereas, there has not been a New York State Regents Commission on Library Services for 18 years yet standards, curriculum and assessments have changed numerous times; and

Whereas, the New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries recommended to the New York State Board of Regents in the Creating the Future: a 2020 Vision Plan for Library Service in New York State, to expand the existing Commissioner’s Regulations (91.2) to require an elementary school librarian in every school to strengthen instructional leadership in meeting the P-12 Common Core Learning Standards, and enforce library staffing regulations in all public schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT advocate for the creation of regulations to mandate full-time certified school librarians at every school library; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT advocate for the inclusion of school librarians on the Curriculum and Instruction section [of the New York State Education Department]; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT advocate for the establishment of a Regents Task Force on school libraries and librarians; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT advocate for the adoption of the Empire State Information Fluency Continuum as the statewide school library standards.