



2018 New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4

Bill #: AF-30

1 **Sponsors:** Kaitlyn Clune, Emily Travis

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3 **An Act To**

4 Amend §912-b. of speech and language improvement services to require the
5 education of American Sign Language to students in grades K-6.

6 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:***

7 **Purpose**

8 The purpose of this bill is to require American Sign Language to be taught in
9 schools with a graduating class size of greater than one hundred in grades K-6.

10 **Summary of Provisions**

11 **Section 1:**

12 Speech and language improvement services.

13 1. The board of education or trustees of each school district and the city school
14 district of the city of New York ~~may~~ must provide speech and language
15 improvement services to students in grades kindergarten through six with speech
16 impairments of a severity that does not adversely affect the student's
17 educational performance but does present a barrier to communication.

18 2. Any student, who is determined to be in need of such speech and language
19 improvement services, shall receive such ~~upon the recommendation of the~~
20 ~~building administrator.~~

21 3. A student, whose speech impairment adversely affects the student's educational
22 performance shall be referred to the committee on special education for further
23 evaluation and recommendation for special education services and programs,
24 pursuant to article eighty-nine of this
25 Chapter.

26 4. All students in school districts with a cohort of greater than one hundred total
27 students shall receive American Sign Language classes in grades kindergarten
28 through six.

29 **Justification**

30 By requiring the education of ASL to young students, the hearing and deaf
31 communities would be able to better communicate with each other, erasing
32 boundaries in job opportunities. Teaching students at a young age will also help
33 students learn the language faster and will promote equality between the deaf and
34 hearing communities.

35 **Fiscal Implications**

36 The cost of this bill will be different for each district, however, we anticipate a less
37 than one percent increase in the district's budget.

38 **Effective Date**

39 This bill will go into effect twelve months after passage.