THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

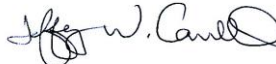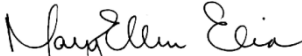**TO:**   Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell

SUBJECT: Library Systems in New York State

DATE: September 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

A review of the role of the three primary types of library systems that support libraries across New York state, and the benefit and impact of those systems on library services.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Education Law section 272 establishes Public Library Systems and Reference and research library resources systems; Education Law section 282 establishes school library systems. These systems must comply with standards of service established by regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Background Information

Public, school and reference and research library resources (3R) systems provide cooperative and centralized services to the libraries that they serve. These services include:

- Technology and telecommunications support
- Centralized resource purchasing including centralized catalogs and cataloging
- Interlibrary loan and delivery services
- Specialized outreach and literacy services for persons with challenging conditions and life situations, the institutionalized, underserved and unserved communities, and people who have difficulty reading, writing, and speaking English
- Cooperative grants administration and grant writing assistance to member libraries

- Programs that assist local communities without libraries to obtain library services
- Staff expertise in areas such as library law, library budgeting and management, technology, collection development, grants, youth services and outreach
- Professional development and training for library staff and others

These cooperative and centralized services result in significant cost avoidance for member libraries while providing greater access to resources for library patrons.

Staff will review with the committee the functions, programs and benefits of library systems.