



**TO:** Cultural Education Committee

**FROM:** Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R Berlin*

**SUBJECT:** Reading Programs in Libraries

**DATE:** November 9, 2015

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Mary Ellen Eina*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Discussion**

A report for committee members of the 2015 Statewide summer reading program which operates out of public libraries across the state.

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

For Information. Education Law section 269 directs the Board to maintain a Library Extension Service, “for the employment of all suitable efforts to bring within the reach of all the people of the state, and awaken their desire for, increased opportunities and facilities for reading and study.” The summer reading program provides resources to support both reading preparation and maintenance of reading skills.

**Background Information**

Studies show that library summer reading programs will raise student learning levels and help prevent learning losses during the summer months. *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* is an annual program that brings children and families into local public libraries for reading and activities. Over 1.9 million New York children and teens participated in the program in 2014. The State Library coordinates the program and works with the 23 public library systems throughout the state to provide a summer reading theme, promotional materials, a creative idea manual, and state-level support.

Staff will report on the success of the 2015 Statewide summer reading program.