

Your Question:

You asked which states have passed legislation about requiring media literacy and/or civics and what those bills required.

Our Response:

From 2015-2020, we found that at least 14 bills had been enacted on media literacy in 10 states. These bills are summarized below, along with two examples of media literacy legislation passed this year.

Enacted Legislation 2015-2020:

California [S.B. 830](#) (2018): Directed the state department of education to provide districts with a list of resources and instructional materials on media literacy and defined media literacy and digital citizenship.

Colorado [H.B. 19-1110](#) (2019): Created the media literacy advisory committee within the department of education and defined media literacy. The committee is responsible for creating a report for the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate regarding the committee's recommendations for implementing media literacy in elementary and secondary education. The commissioner of education is required to appoint members to serve on the committee. The department is required to hire a consultant to perform the research and coordination of the committee and is required to draft the report for the committee.

Connecticut [S.B. 949](#) (2017): Established a Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety and Media Literacy Advisory Council within the department of education. The council is tasked with providing recommendations regarding best practices for instruction in media literacy and digital citizenship; and methods of instructing students on safe, ethical, responsible, and effective use of media and technology.

Massachusetts [S.B. 2631](#) (2018): Required all public schools to teach the history of the United States of America and social science, including civics, to be taught as required subjects. Among the required instruction is the "development of skills to access, analyze, and evaluate written and digital media as it relates to history and civics."

New Mexico [H.M. 49](#) (2017): Requested that the legislative education study committee or other appropriate interim committee hold a hearing to discuss safe media and technology use with the goal of establishing media literacy and digital citizenship as part of the state's education goals and essential academic learning requirements. The bill also requested that the public education department and school districts offer media literacy instruction and develop best practices.

Rhode Island [S.B. 106](#) (2017): Required the department of elementary and secondary education to consider, in consultation with national or statewide organizations focused on media literacy, the incorporation of media literacy into the board of education's basic education program regulations. The bill also defined media literacy.

Texas [S.B. 11](#) (2019): Required each school district to incorporate instruction in digital citizenship into the district's curriculum, including information regarding the potential criminal consequences of cyberbullying. The bill also defined digital citizenship.

Utah [H.B. 213](#) (2015): Defined digital citizenship and required public schools to establish school community councils to, among other things, advise and make recommendations to local administrators and the local school board on a variety of topics, including safe technology use and digital citizenship.

Utah [H.B. 372](#) (2020): Created the Digital Wellness, Citizenship, and Safe Technology Commission to identify best practices and compile resources on several topics, including cyberbullying, for training students in healthy behavior related to technology use. The bill also defined digital citizenship.

Washington [S.B. 5294](#) (2015): Expanded the role of the teacher-librarian to include, among other things, instructing students in digital citizenship “including how to be critical consumers of information and provide guidance about thoughtful and strategic use of online resources.”

Washington [S.B. 6273](#) (2016): Defined digital citizenship, required collaboration with an advisory committee to develop statewide plans for media literacy and digital citizenship instruction; and required an annual review process.

Washington [S.B. 5449](#) (2017): Required the state school directors’ association to systematically revise its model policies and procedures on internet safety. The bill also required the office of the superintendent of public instruction to survey teacher-librarians, principals, and technology directors to understand how they are currently integrating media literacy and digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy into their curriculum to determine ways they can lead, teach, and support digital citizenship and media literacy across all grades and content areas. Further, the bill required the superintendent of public instruction to create a web-based location with links, recommended successful practices and resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy and internet safety.

Washington [S.B. 6168](#) (2020): Created a media literacy grant program and appropriated money for this purpose.

West Virginia [H.B. 206](#) (2019): Created the Mountain State Digital Literacy Project pilot in which participating schools are to be provided with instructional resources for students and teachers that feature an extensive curriculum related to digital literacy, online assessment preparation and internet safety.

Enacted Legislation 2021:

Colorado [H.B. 21-1103](#): Requires the department of education to create and maintain an online resource bank of materials and resources regarding media literacy and recommended by the media literacy advisory committee; provide technical assistance for implementing media literacy practices when requested by a school district or charter school; and adopt revisions to the reading, writing and civics standards to identify the knowledge and skills that elementary and secondary students should acquire relating to media literacy.

Illinois [H.B. 234](#): Defines media literacy and requires a unit of instruction on media literacy beginning in the 2022-23 school year. The unit of instruction must include instruction regarding: 1) accessing information; 2) analyzing and evaluating media messages; 3) creating media; 4) reflecting on media consumption; and 5) social responsibility and civics. The bill requires the state board of education to determine how to prepare and make available instructional resources and professional learning opportunities for educators that may be used to develop this unit of instruction.