



December 15, 2023

Greetings –

This week I spoke at the launch of the [New York Campaign for Early Literacy](#) organized by Education Trust - New York. The goal of the campaign, which has already been endorsed by over forty organizations, is to improve literacy outcomes in New York State by promoting policies and practices for teaching literacy based on the science of reading. New York ranked 37th among States nationwide on fourth grade reading scores according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress and is one of five states that has not enacted any laws related to the science of reading. At the meeting, I spoke about my bill [“The Right to Read Act” \(A.2897\)](#).



This legislation would require the State Education Department (SED) to develop and publish approved evidence-based literacy curricula to be used by school districts and provide support to school districts to implement such curricula. It would also require SED to report on the progress of students and the progress school districts are making in teaching literacy. [You can find out more about the New York Campaign for Early Literacy here](#). I also submitted testimony this week to the New York City Council Education Committee and State and Federal Legislation Committee oversight hearing “New Phonics Based Curriculum and Dyslexia Screening in NYC Public Schools.” [You can read my testimony here](#).

## Advocating for Sammy's Law

One of my top priorities for the legislative session starting in January remains street safety. Today, I joined other elected officials, advocates, and families rallying in support of Sammy's Law ([A.7266](#)). This bill, which will give New York City the ability to lower speed limits on its streets, is a commonsense measure that will save lives. It is time the Legislature pass this bill.



## 20 Year Anniversary of the Atlantic Yards Project

In the beginning of the week, [I spoke at a press briefing](#) hosted by Brooklyn Speaks on the status of the Atlantic Yards development. The current developer, Greenland USA, has defaulted on its debt further complicating whether the commitments, including affordable housing and open space, that are part of the State approved project plan can be met. The future of development over the rail yards and the site across Flatbush Avenue from Barclays Center is entirely unclear. A new plan developed with meaningful community participation and ongoing transparency and accountability measures is needed. Twenty years of delays and unfulfilled promises is enough. You can watch the press briefing and read the press release [issued by Brooklyn Speaks here](#).

## 9/29 Event Disaster Loan Assistance Update

I heard from many constituents about costly damage caused by the severe flooding on September 29th. Eligible New York City residents and businesses in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island affected by the significant flash flooding event on September 29, 2023, may now [apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration](https://www.sba.gov/apply-for-low-interest-disaster-loans). These loans are made available for those whose homes and/or businesses were damaged due to flooding. The filing deadline to submit applications is February 2, 2024 for physical damage, and September 4, 2024 for economic injury. For more information and to apply, please visit: <http://on.nyc.gov/flashfloodrecovery>

### **Holiday Toy Drive**

Thanks to all of you who have donated toys to benefit the toy drives for CHIPS and Camp Friendship.



You can still drop off new toys at my district office today by 3pm or on Monday, December 18th between 9:30am-4:00pm. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

Happy Hanukkah to all who celebrate!

-Bobby

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