# **Reader’s Aid Update: NYSDSC Meeting 11/09/17 Albany, NY**

Revised legislation has been signed into law by Governor Cuomo to expand the eligibility requirements for the existing Reader’s Aid Program resulting in increase to annual aid cap per student from $1000.00 to $4000.00 per year, expanded eligibility to include non-degree granting proprietary schools in New York State, and authorize the use of funds for purchase of assistive technology.

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## **When will the Reader’s Aid updates to the NY law changes be effective?**

January 21, 2018

## **What if a college/institute applies for Reader’s Aid before January 21, 2018?**

You will be provided with up to $1000.00 per student, after January 21, 2018 up to 4000.00 per student

## **Will the traditional human service still apply to the student/institution with this update?**

Yes, funding can support such human supports such as note-takers, readers, science lab assistant, and interpreter services.

## **When will the colleges/institutions be provided with new procedures?**

ACCES-VR is currently working on updates to the procedures and application process. Discussions were provided to consider to identify a Qualified Agent at the Institutions to verify disability eligibility rather than providing documentation to NYSED. Once a Qualified Agent has verified disability, no further eligibility requirements from that institution will be required for that particular student during the time at that institution.

## **What Assistive Technology will be considered for Reader’s Aid funding?**

It is expected that personal insurance, ACCES-VR or NYSCB, and other funding opportunities will be used for personal technology or fitted items. The Reader’s Aid funds for Assistive Technology will pay for Assistive Technology that will benefit eligible students for specific devices to support educational needs for success. (Ex: JAWS software for student to have tests read to them; Braille printer to prepare accessible materials; Notetaking software and devices, Hearing magnification systems such as an FM System or Roger Pen, etc.)

## **Print Disability was not approved within this update to Reader’s Aid, but further exploration for future eligibility continues.**