



**DULUTH
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

September 5, 2018

Library gives thousands of Duluth students path to success

Mayor, Superintendent, join library to announce collaboration providing all public school students and teachers with virtual library cards

Today the Duluth Public Library announced a new collaboration with Duluth Public Schools to give virtual library cards to all students enrolled in ISD 709. The Library Port program lets students checkout up to 5 items from any DPL location, and gives access to the library's digital resources.

The Library Port program is fine free. If a student's items are not returned, there would be a matching decrease in the number of items the student can check out until the items get returned. This procedure creates a positive model based on benefits for students when they return materials. The traditional model involves financial punishment and restricted access.

A data sharing agreement was written and approved by both the City of Duluth and ISD 709. The agreement permits the district to share directory information with the library as allowed under federal law and Minnesota Statutes, to create the student accounts. An opt-out option is available for parents.



There will be no physical cards, ensuring a greater level of security for students' personal information. Each Library Port card will have a unique, easy to remember number. Students will still be able to have a separate traditional library card account with a physical card. Educators who opt-in will receive cards that allow access to digital resources for use in classrooms.

Children enrolled in ECFE and other District early childhood programs are also being issued Library Port cards. This will help remove barriers for many of Duluth's youngest children and provide an important boost to the Library's school readiness goal. The Library Port Card model is based on the St. Paul Public Library's successful [Library Go](#) program.

The plan is to roll the Library Port program out to private and charter schools in the future.

About the Duluth Public Library

The Duluth Public Library strengthens our community by promoting the love of reading and life-long discovery, helping ensure children are ready and excited to learn, offering robust connections to the digital world, and providing a creative and welcoming environment for all.

The Library is recognized throughout the community as an invaluable resource in providing reading, early literacy, lifelong learning, digital access, and creative and cultural materials and services.