

I have done this in 3 school districts now. We created branding for our program and call it Unbound and the books are delivered in bright green bags which the kids really recognize and get excited about, so I highly recommend doing something recognizable. We had our lawyer draft an MOU and it is signed by the superintendent and library director to get a spreadsheet of all student data that is uploaded to our ILS. This step is done annually because it is coded to the individual classroom of the user. The accounts are created with a student ID as a library card number so no cards are necessary. We do have some restrictions, students can not request MeL or check out tablets and that is done by the patron type in our ILS. Most of the work is on the front end, I had to build relationships with the paraprofessionals in the school library and make sure no one thought I was trying to take their job, rather I'm trying to make their job easier for them giving students more access. We also train all students 3-12 on how to make a request using the catalog, which is time consuming at the outset. I've written several grants to fund this expanded service and it has even been supported by our local Rotary Club. The results have been overwhelmingly positive! I am incredibly passionate about this and glad to help with any other questions you may have.

Patti Skinner

Mason County District Library

Scottville Branch Manager

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Kindergarten has a class card so kids can pick out for reading time at school. In first grade kids are given card applications to take home. They all get physical cards. Our cards we hand out have two cards at registration. Most teachers retain the second copy. The teachers have their own restrictions on how many books can be checked out each week. We follow the teachers guidelines and tell them if they want more they must come in afterschool with a parent. The teachers also tell them what they cannot check out: movies, teen, adult, games, etc. (A few years ago a teacher banned all Minecraft books after several fights over books. We saw many new families visit as kids showed up after school to claim a Minecraft book.) We follow up on overdues with the teacher before the parents. The largest problems we have are children who have two parents homes and the book travels to a home we can not get it back from. Since this is sometimes a situation the child has no control over we have worked with teachers and kids in having them doing "library service" to work off lost books. Usually we follow the teachers recommendations on how to follow up. If you have any specific questions I'd be happy to answer them.

Tanya R. Procknow

Mackinaw Area Public Library

Youth Librarian

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Ours are digital only and they have a limit of 3 books. If there parent will come in and sign their application (our biggest problem) it is immediately made into a regular juvenile card.

Hope that helps!

Kay

We have been doing student cards for a year now. We restrict the card to 3 print materials and Overdrive & RB Digital platforms. They are not allowed to check out AV or access hoopla. A registration card is filled out with the student signing. We have codes for student cards and then we give the patron a regular library card.

We issue cards to those students that come into the library without a parent. This could be the student just stopping in or one of the school field trips. We issue these for Middle and High School age students and use their student ID for photo verification.

Leann Parker

Howard Miller Library
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We have had student library cards here at Forsyth for several years. We issue the cards to those students who will be visiting the library with their class. We typically host 4-5 classes from our local elementary school once per month. Their visits last about 30 minutes. They visit one class at a time.

Our cooperative set up a special profile for students.

We send a special registration form home through their teachers with an informational letter explaining how their card will work. I am happy to send that letter to you if you would like.

Student cards expire at the end of the school year. We allow students to have 2 items checked out at a time on their cards.

We have found that the two item limit has cut down on the amount of items lost due to students taking items home from school and forgetting about them, etc.

Leslie Makela, Director

Forsyth Township Public Library

What an exciting adventure you are embarking on! The Kent District Library participated in this National Initiative for about 3 years...called Library Card Challenge.

Because each district had its own system of student ids we weren't able to use that as a unifying number in our database so we created physical Library cards for each student individually. We collected the following information to create the accounts:

Student name (first and Last)

Birthdate (because we automatically set the expiration date for their 18th birthday)

School

These accounts had unique barcodes with different prefixes from our usual patron card numbers and as a result were easily identified in the system.

They were allowed 3 check outs of print materials only. They could upgrade to a full access Library card if they lived in our service area and had a Parent or Guardian with them to serve as cosigner.

Joyanne Huston-Swanson
Community Engagement and Outreach

Kent District Library | Service Center

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We recently issued cards to most of the kids in our district, but we got included in a larger effort and we didn't have a lot of involvement until the end. I don't really know many of the details, except that it was part of the fall school enrollment process, which was all online. Parents e-signed a form requesting a card for their child. The schools already had all the data we need to issue a card except for the parental ID #, and the child's address was already confirmed by the schools. We got an excel spreadsheet (surprise!!) with the info, which we then used to create cards. (1500 of them!) Parents could call to get the card number for online access, but had to come in and show ID to get the physical card. There are no restrictions on the cards in terms of borrowing limits or anything. If no one from the Muskegon Area District Library reaches out to you about the whole process, you might want to give them a call. Kalamazoo Public Library has an even more comprehensive and involved process for getting kids student ID/Bus Pass/Library cards.

Good luck!

Virginia DeMumbrum
White Lake Community Library
Whitehall, Michigan

I work in a school library for students in KR-2nd grade. We use the student ID for the library card number in our system. They can still check out books at our School/Public Library with this number. I use bookmarks for a library card. I put the students first name and last initial. I laminate the bookmarks when I am done to make them a little sturdier. Students bring it to the library and use it to mark books on the shelf until they are ready to check out. The number is only 6 numbers and they memorize it pretty quickly. They enter it on a keypad when ready to check out.

This year I will be making bookmarks with barcodes for each student to be scanned since we will be limiting touch areas. I have used index cards in the past.

Hope this helps!

Bonnie Oshe
Cameron School Media Assistant
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We do this with all Middle School Students. They get a digital card only, and it is imported to our system (Sirsi) in bulk, I believe. The patrons can 'upgrade' to a full access card if they would like to do so. They just come into the library and show ID and they are set!
The barcodes are not traditional barcode #'s which helps us to better track them etc.



Andrea Ingmire
Library Director
Peter White Public Library
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Our ILS is Apollo by Biblionix and they were able to set up a separate classification for our local public school students. We were able to import the whole student body at once (over 700) with a spread

sheet provided by the media specialist at the school. The patron numbers are exclusive of our regular card numbers so we are not issuing physical cards. The students only have access to electronic resources and the media specialist is providing parent/guardian permission slips to take home and have signed so the parents are aware of our lending policies (they will have access to our entire digital library).

If students want access to our physical collection they have to come in and go through our normal process of issuing a patron card and having a patron/guardian sign the acknowledgment. At that point we will remove them from the separate student list and make them a regular patron.

Having access to only electronic resources makes it so we don't have any overdue or lost item problems.

So far things have gone without a hitch at our end, although we were just getting started when COVID hit.

Mark Morton

Director

Leland Township Public Library

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For us, we call them student e-cards. They do not permit borrowing of physical materials but allow full access to all of our online resources including Overdrive & Hoopla. They do not get a physical card for these accounts. We have the same pin # for all of them: 1234 and each student ID number is each student's library card number. Each fall we take all of the student e-card accounts out of our ILS (Sierra/III) then each week thereafter the district sends us new students to add to our database. It's been working very well overall.

Good luck!

Janice