



Plano Public Library System (PPLS) Non-Resident Library Card Fee (effective Oct. 3, 2011)

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to pay?

Residents living outside of Plano will be required to pay \$50 annually for a full access card. Cards will be valid for one year from the purchase date and are non-refundable.

Residents of the following cities are exempt from the library card fee since PPLS has a reciprocal lending agreement with the following libraries: Allen, Frisco, Garland, McKinney, Richardson, The Colony, and Wylie

Why is Plano doing this?

The decision to implement the non-resident fee was made as the library budget continues to diminish while library usage increases. In past years, PPLS received outside funding in addition to tax revenue collected by the City of Plano, and was therefore able to provide materials, service and staff levels to support much heavier usage. That additional state and local funding is no longer received, and City of Plano residents pay 99% of PPLS' annual costs through their city tax bill (donations cover the remaining 1%). The goal has always been to provide the best service possible to library patrons, but budget reality dictates that we are no longer able to offer free service to all residents in the State of Texas.

Doesn't the State of Texas provide funding for libraries?

In prior years, PPLS received funding from both the State of Texas (\$122,408 in 2011), Collin County (\$75,857 in 2011), and Denton County (\$9,966); however, starting in fiscal year 2011-12 funding will come solely from the City of Plano.

I thought libraries were "public places" – why does it cost money?

It does not cost to visit the five Plano libraries. The public is welcome to visit the library and make use of materials, however, a library card (resident or non-resident) is necessary to check out materials and use other services.

I am now considered a non-resident – when do I have to pay?

Non-resident cardholders wishing to retain their Plano library card will need to pay the fee prior to any checkout on or after October 3. Computer and internet access will be denied on October 3 until the fee is paid.

How do I pay?

Pay at the library with cash, check or credit card.

I pay taxes to PISD - why do I have to pay for a library card?

Plano ISD and the City of Plano are separate taxing entities and do not share funding. All property owners within Plano ISD's boundaries pay tax to the school district to cover the cost of educating students. A separate tax amount is paid to the city in which one owns property to cover the costs of police and fire service, infrastructure, parks & recreation, libraries, and many other services. Visit your city's website for more information about your city tax. Residents who pay tax to the City of Plano are funding 99% of the cost of Plano's five libraries.

I own property in Plano, but reside in a different city - am I eligible for a free library card?

The library card fee is based on your current city of residence. If you live in a reciprocating city listed above, your library card will be free, if not, the non-resident fee of \$50 will apply. Library privileges are determined by permanent residence address, as are parks & recreation privileges with the City of Plano and school enrollment with Plano ISD.

I work in Plano, but live in a different city - am I eligible for a free library card?

The library card fee is based on city of residence, not work location. If you live in a reciprocating city listed above, your library card will be free; otherwise the non-resident fee of \$50 will apply.

I am living in Plano temporarily - am I eligible for a free library card?

Patrons with proof of Plano residency will be issued free library cards.

I do not live in Plano or a reciprocating city, but am a Plano student (or teacher) - am I eligible for a free library card?

The library card fee is based on your current city of residence. If you live in a reciprocating city listed above, your library card will be free; otherwise the non-resident fee of \$50 will apply.

I recently moved – will my resident or non-resident status change?

Residents moving out of Plano to a non-reciprocating city will need to pay the fee prior to the next checkout. Residents moving from a non-reciprocating city to Plano (or a reciprocating city) will be considered residents when their annual non-resident card renews, however, the fee paid prior to moving is non-refundable. In other words, there will not be a pro-rated refund of any annual fee upon moving mid-year to Plano or any other reciprocating city.

I'm from out of town – can I use a Plano library?

PPLS will issue a day pass for computer access only (no material checkout) to visitors residing outside of Collin, Dallas, Rockwall, Hunt, Fannin, Grayson, and Denton counties.

I have a Texshare card – can I still use a Plano library?

PPLS will continue to accept Texshare cards from Texshare participating libraries. The checkout limit on Texshare cards is three items and the cards are not valid for computer/wireless access or placing holds.

How is a reciprocating city determined?

A reciprocating city is one that offers "reciprocal" and "comparable" library services, which is defined as a city that demonstrates a good faith effort to fund their own local library service at a level comparable to Plano's AND who offers free cards to Plano residents. PPLS may delete or add participating cities at its discretion.