

Ellis School Library Q&A:

Do students have to have a library card to visit the library?

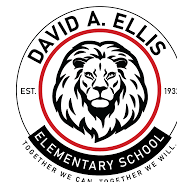
Nope! If they have been at our school last year, they are in the system and just need their names to check out a book. If they aren't in the system, Ms. Carr needs to make them a new account & library card, so they will need to wait a week or two for her to catch up on adding our new students' accounts.

How can I ensure my student has a library card for the Boston Public Libraries?

Fun fact - the system we are using this year in the BPS libraries is the SAME as the Boston Public Library's system. This means that when Ms. Carr makes a library card for our Ellis students, it is an **official Boston Public Library card** and grants them access to ALL public libraries in the city! Ms. Carr will be working over the next few weeks to make new accounts & cards for new students, but **if you know of a student who needs a NEW card, please email Ms. Carr with their full name and classroom teacher at scarr2@bostonpublicschools.org** so she can update their account and get them a new card asap.

What is your book borrowing policy for the Ellis library?

As of now, if students have a library account, **they may borrow 1 book from the library at a time. It must be returned in order for them to check out another.** This is a **new policy** compared to last year when Ms. Carr allowed students to check out more books at a time and is due to the high number of books that were never returned. If students do not have an account set up yet, they cannot borrow a book.



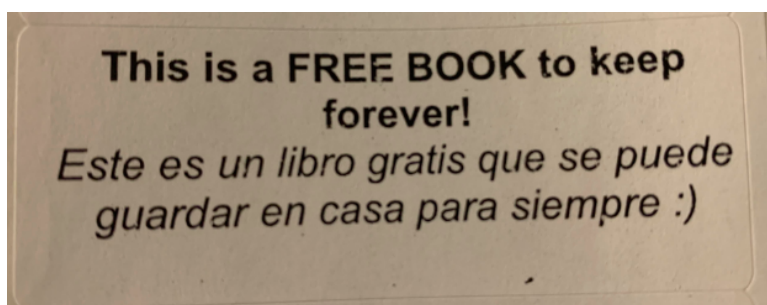
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How long can students borrow books for?

Technically, the Polaris system (the BPL's system we are using) allows patrons to borrow books for **2 weeks** after which point they'll receive an automated email reminding them it's due. However, if you know your student is visiting the library once a week with their class and has a book borrowed, please remind them to return their books **each week** as that is the best way to set them up for success!

My student already has multiple books they're bringing home from the library - what's the deal with those?

Ms. Carr has a lot of **FREE books** that have been donated to the library. As a part of some students' class visits to the library, she allows them to take up to 4 free books home (they have to earn the 4 as a class so some classes may have fewer books). To avoid confusion, Ms. Carr has made stickers that students put on their free books so teachers and families know that these are FREE and NOT LIBRARY books! The stickers look like this:



More questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to Ms. Carr, the Ellis School Librarian, at scarr2@bostonpublicschools.org!