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# Board Policy



## **Reciprocal Borrowing**

### **Policy Statement**

Pierce County Library System establishes reciprocal borrowing services to allow residents of Pierce County Library's service area to borrow library books and materials in person from other libraries, when those residents are outside the geographic boundaries of the area served by Pierce County Library.

### **Purpose**

Pierce County Library supports citizen expectations that governments cooperate and collaborate for the benefit of the public good. Reciprocal borrowing represents "libraries without borders". Pierce County Library actively seeks ways to provide convenient, easy access to library materials and services for residents. A borrowing policy that offers residents free access to libraries and resources beyond its geographic boundaries adds value for the Library's customers and is responsible public policy.

### **Definitions**

**Reciprocal borrowing agreement:** An agreement established between two libraries that allows residents of one library's service area to check out books and other materials from the other library for free and vice versa.

### **Policy**

Pierce County Library will enter into reciprocal borrowing agreements with other libraries to increase choices, offer greater convenience, and expand access to library resources for residents.

Such agreements are primarily intended to facilitate checkout and use of the on-site resources of the reciprocal library when Pierce County residents are visiting in a reciprocal borrowing library's area.

Reciprocal cardholders are subject to the rules, policies and procedures set by Pierce County Library.

Non-resident customers of reciprocal libraries are not eligible to use Pierce County Library as part of the reciprocal borrowing program.

### **Establishing Reciprocal Borrowing Agreements**

Pierce County Library will consider establishing reciprocal agreements with libraries in reasonable geographic proximity, and that have a regular, ongoing funding source.

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Municipalities without a tax-supported public library or that do not participate in supporting a system, either through annexation or contract, are not eligible for reciprocal borrowing with Pierce County Library.

Pierce County Library will review its reciprocal agreements and usage annually to ensure agreements are serving their established purpose and current residents' needs. Should a reciprocal relationship create an imbalance or other situation that negatively impacts services to Pierce County Library's residents or requires additional staffing or costs, the Library will consider ending an agreement.

Reciprocal Borrowing Agreements must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

## **Related Policies**

Borrowing Privileges

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Rural Library District, April 10, 2013.**