



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

## ***Lawrence Township Students Receive Indy Library Cards!***

The Indianapolis Public Library and Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township have completed a first-ever initiative to provide all district public school students with Indy Library cards. It represents the first step toward the Library's goal to provide a Library card to every public school student in Marion County.

During a celebratory launch event on September 22, MSD Lawrence Township Superintendent Dr. Shawn A. Smith and IndyPL CEO Jackie Nytes congratulated students at Brook Park Elementary School in joining the approximately 15,000 other district students in grades 1 - 12 who are receiving their new cards.

"We are so proud to partner with The Indianapolis Public Library to give our students access to endless academic resources," stated Dr. Smith. "This is an example of a true community partnership between two great organizations."

The special new Library card, called the e-resource card, will allow students to access the Library's growing collection of digital materials, such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming video, streaming music and magazines, as well as an array of online databases to help in their academic research. The card allows for limited borrowing of books and physical materials, but young people can visit any IndyPL location with a parent or guardian to upgrade to a full Library card.

"This is so exciting to have every single student in Lawrence Township receive a Library card," said IndyPL CEO Jackie Nytes. "Enriching young lives is one of our important missions, and it all starts now as students will discover a world of information at their fingertips."

Research provided by the Illinois School Library Media Association demonstrates a strong link between access to high quality library services and academic achievement. By providing access to IndyPL's online offerings beyond what's available in a school's library, students will be inspired not only to become better readers and learners but to develop the digital research skills necessary for later academic success. Additionally, such access will enable MSD Lawrence Township students to complete school work as the district moves to provide them with tablet computers for classwork.

The Library card initiative, being launched during National Library Card Week, addresses a key goal in IndyPL's new strategic plan to strengthen the Library's contribution to formal education and establish partnerships to improve community access to information.