

Our Fine Free Story

As of June 1, 2019, Spooner Memorial Library is 100% fine free!

In Spring 2018, the library Director and the Library Board of Trustees began discussion on the possibility of eliminating fines on children's material. Research was conducted and a determination was made that eliminating fines on children's materials would help eliminate barriers for families and children. The board determined that the library's role was not one to teach lessons, but one to offer opportunity, community, and literacy. Fines were determined to cause an unnecessary barrier to these things. All trustees voted in favor of removing fines on children's and young adult materials effective June 1, 2018.

A similar conversation continued Spring of 2019, this time discussing fines on adult materials. With almost a year of no fines on materials for youth, the library had seen more people coming back and more positive interactions with patrons. More research was conducted and effective June 1, 2019 the library is now 100% fine free with borrowers only having to pay replacement costs (often decreased) if items are lost or damaged.

Eliminating fines is one way that we can continue to ensure that our patrons are not disadvantaged due to income or transportation availability.