



Press Release

Artesia Public Library
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artesia Public Library Eliminates Late Fines

Artesia, New Mexico – The Artesia Public Library is happy to announce that late fines have been eliminated on regular library materials. Guided by the American Library Association, and following in the steps of many public libraries, the library strives to provide increased access to library materials and services. Late fines have historically been used as a means of encouraging the timely return of books. However, it has been found that late fines create barriers to access. When late fines are due, library users with limited incomes, especially children, are more likely to not return the late library materials and never return to use the library.

In 2019, the American Library Association issued a resolution citing that monetary fines create economic and public relations barriers that prevent libraries from carrying out the core values of librarianship. The Artesia Public Library is committed to these core values of librarianship, which includes providing lifelong learning services, providing free and equal access, and providing the highest level of service to all library users.

The Artesia Public Library Board of Trustees unanimously voted in favor of eliminating late fines on regular library materials. Library cardholders are still responsible for replacement costs of materials that are unreturned or damaged. Also, library card privileges will still be suspended until replacement costs have been paid in full. Special materials, such as wireless internet hotspots, audiovisual equipment, and Interlibrary Loan materials, will continue to carry a late fine.