

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**READ DOWN YOUR FINES**

Children and teens 19 and under can read in the Library to pay off their overdue fines. This can be done at any one of our four locations. Once signed in at children's, teens or an appropriate desk at a branch, children and teens will receive one dollar 'credit' for every 15 minutes spent reading. The credit can be used to remove overdue fines or to purchase a replacement card. Reading down fines counts toward overdue Library fines and replacement cards only and cannot be applied to lost/damaged charges.

While in the Library, participants receive credit for:

- Reading by themselves
- Reading to/with younger children
- If children are reading to each other, both earn credit
- Infants and pre-school children can be read to by a parent or other caregiver

Reading any **print** media (books, magazines and newspapers) earns Read Down Your Fines credit. Credit can be applied to old or current fines, but credit cannot be earned toward future fines.

To participate in the program, children and teens 19 and under must register at the appropriate Library desk (Children's, Teens or Branch). Once registered, each time a participant wants to 'read down,' notify the desk staff so your time can be noted and monitored. Sign in and out with staff to track time spent reading. Corresponding fees will be waived at sign-out.

Get a clean slate and a fresh start. Read away your fines!

**FAQs:**

**Q: How do I qualify?**

A: If you're 19 years old or younger and have an Elizabeth Public Library card with fines, you're eligible! You just have to log time reading at EPL. Check with any staff member for help.

**Q: What fines will be waived?**

A: All overdue fees accrued on your card, as well as lost card replacement fees. We will waive overdue fees and library card replacement fees only. If you have lost your library card and need a replacement, and you are participating in the program, let Library staff know—it will be replaced without a fee.

**Q: If I don't have fines on my account, or I already paid the fines, can I get cash or credit for reading at the Library?**

A: No. The Read Down Your Fines program waives outstanding fees only. No reimbursement of past fines or credit towards possible future fines will be provided.

**Q: How much time do I need to spend reading?**

A: The program is based on 15-minute reading intervals. Lesser time cannot be credited. Fines do not need to be 'read down' in a single interval. Larger fines can be 'read down' over several weeks or months.

**Q: Do I have to read to receive credit, or can I watch a movie, listen to music or surf the web at the Library?**

A: Only print reading material qualifies for credit, but that means more than just books—you can also read graphic novels or comic books, magazines or newspapers. Listening to a book (a friend or caregiver reading to you) also counts. Watching movies, even if based on a book, or listening to music do not count. Let our Library staff know if you need help finding something to read.

**Q: Can I read to reduce fines accrued on another person's account?**

A: A parent or caregiver may read to a child, thereby reducing the fees on the child's account (not the parent's). Otherwise, no, you must read away the fees on your own account and cannot reduce the fines of other cardholders.