



For Immediate Release

Announcing START: Public Library Cards for All Students

December 2, 2021 (Fairbanks, AK) - Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Libraries are pleased to announce a new partnership with Fairbanks North Star Borough School District to encourage students to obtain a public library card.

During spring semester 2022, parents will have the opportunity in Power School to opt-in and have their child receive a new type of digital public library card just for FNSBSD students called '**START**,' or '**Student Access in Real-Time**.'

On Wednesday, December 8 at 8:45 AM, a formal agreement will be signed at the Noel Wien Library by Borough Mayor Bryce Ward and School District Chief School Administrator Karen Melin.

Each fall, parents will have the choice to **opt-in** via Power School for their student to receive a new START card. START cardholders will have immediate access to many digital resources available in the library during the school year and the following summer to assist with summer reading.

The START card will allow students to have immediate access to many digital resources available to FNSB Public Library cardholders. It will enable the checkout of up to three items at a time.

Staff at the School District, Fairbanks Public Libraries, and Alaska Library Consortium worked for many months together to create this new digital card. It was designed to help busy families obtain a library card for their children. A goal of the START program is to help parents expand their student's access to educational resources.

"We are super excited to work with our partners at the school district on this. Teachers were the impetus for this project as they were looking for ways that their students could use public library resources to supplement the offerings of the school libraries. We are all hoping it proves of great benefit to all students," commented Melissa Harter, FNSB Libraries Director.

All Borough residents are eligible to sign up for a free FNSB Public Library card. The Libraries offer a wealth of both digital and physical material. The libraries contain about 350,000 books, audio and visual items. As a member of the Alaska Library Consortium, public library cardholders have access to over 5 million additional items statewide. Also available to cardholders are over 80 databases and digital access to over 500,000 e-books, audiobooks, movies, and music via Overdrive and Hoopla. Students with a START card will be able to use all of these resources to support their education.

For more information on the programs and services at the Public Libraries, visit <https://www.fnsblibrary.org>.

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Media Contact: Melissa Harter, Melissa.Harter@fnsb.gov, 907-459-1029