



Fine Free Fact Sheet

Why your Waverly Public Library is eliminating late fees

What Do We Know About Library Fines?

- Fines prevent some people from using the library, especially children and low income individuals.
- Overdue fines revenue represents a small percentage of our total annual budget.
- Small fines do not make a significant difference in bringing items back sooner.
- The punishment of overdue fines can give the library a negative image.

1%

of the Waverly Public Library's annual budget comes from library fines.

The Big Picture:

We want to provide books and services to as many people as we can. Overdue fines are not worth denying access to library services.

What Are Our Goals With Fine Elimination?

- Focus on making library resources available to as many people as possible.
- Take staff time spent dealing with fines (collecting and counting money, etc.) and use it for positive patron interactions instead.
- Bring people back to the library who stayed away because of fines.

Learn more at waverlyia.com/public-library/fine-free.

What Does This Mean for You?

✓ No more fines

Overdue fines have been completely eliminated, with the exception of new movies and library equipment like projectors. If a year-long trial period is deemed successful by staff and board, this fine free practice will continue indefinitely.

✓ A clean slate

All patrons start with a clean slate. All past overdue fines have been cleared, with the exception of damaged or lost items.

✓ Due dates still matter

Check-out of additional materials will be blocked when an item is two weeks overdue or when the cost of a lost or damaged item has not been paid. You will keep receiving email due date reminders. We will still send mail and email notices of overdue materials, and you will still receive bills for long overdue items (60+ days).



Questions or feedback? We would love to hear from you!

Email us at waverly@waverly.lib.ia.us.

Call us at (319) 352-1223.

Talk with us the next time you're in.



Map courtesy of the Urban Libraries Council.

<https://www.urbanlibraries.org/member-resources/fine-free-map>

Increasing numbers of libraries are going fine-free as the library community reevaluates the effectiveness of fines and realizes the potential barriers they present.