**Charlotte Mecklenburg, North Carolina**

**Overview**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (CML) built a strong partnership to ensure that all 147,000 K-12th grade students had 24/7 access to library resources using virtual library cards*. ONE Access* uses student identification numbers instead of separate library cards to access library databases and e-resources and check out CML resources with no fines for overdue materials.

**Partnership Highlights**

**Students have enthusiastically embraced *ONE Access***.

* During the 2015-2016 school year, nearly 85 percent of all CMS students (124,000) interacted with the library using their *ONE Access* accounts
* Circulation of juvenile non-fiction e-books through OverDrive increased by 110 percent
* Use of TumbleBooks increased more than tenfold

**Teachers played a key role in encouraging students to connect with the public library**. In December 2015, CMS School Superintendent Ann Clark issued a challenge to district teachers to ensure that all students activated their new virtual cards before the end of the year by logging onto the library website using their student ID number or checking out materials at a library branch. The approach engaged teachers in connecting students with the library as part of their classroom work, raised awareness of the library’s valuable learning resources and increased use of *ONE Access* cards.

***ONE Access* virtual cards issued to more than 18,000 CMS teachers and staff provide access to library online resources and strengthen the library-school partnership**. The library also launched a pilot mobile hotspot lending program using *ONE Access* accounts for students who don’t have home internet access.

**A Partnership Built to Last**

*“We have moved from a cordial relationship between the library and school system, to a working partnership, to a one-year Memorandum of Understanding to a five-year MOU. It is not an accident that our partnership is where it is today.”*

*Lee Keesler, CEO, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library*

**Formal agreements between the library and school system define the working relationship and ensure sustained collaboration throughout the two systems** – from the library CEO and school superintendent to library staff at 20 branches and school staff at 170 schools. The first CML-CMS MOU formalized the partnership, launched a library card signup campaign for pre-K through third grade children, created a framework for sharing aggregate test data and established a new full-time position to refine and sustain the working relationships. Building on the success of *ONE Access*, library and school leaders recently extended their formal agreement through 2021 to provide a framework for collaboration beyond library cards.

**A new agreement reaches charter school students**. The five-year MOU between the library system and a charter school provides electronic cards to 1,500 students in grades six through 12. All students will have full *ONE Access* privileges, and teachers and staff will have electronic access.

For more information, contact Martha Yesowitch at myesowitch@cmlibrary.org.

*The Leaders Library Card Challenge is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and is led by the Urban Libraries Council. For more Information, email* *info@urbanlibraries.org**.*