**Kalamazoo, Michigan**

**Overview**

Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) and Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) have joined together for the exciting OneCard partnership which seeks to enrich and support school instruction, reduce barriers traditionally associated with registering for library cards and promote the benefits of visiting a public library, checking out books, developing one’s literacy skills and creating an appreciation of reading. All 13,000 Kalamazoo Public Schools students have received library cards through the OneCard initiative.

**Partnership Highlights**

* **Student ID + Library Card**: In an effort aimed at streamlining everyday school and library use, KPS middle and high school student IDs now function as full-service Kalamazoo Public Library cards. Elementary students are presented with distinctive OneCards, distributed through the schools. Both of these cards provide full access to all KPL print materials, audio/visual and online materials including academic databases and language services, KPL computers, the newly renovated [Teen Studio](https://www.kpl.gov/teen/the-studio/) and KPL’s state-of-the-art digital studio, [The Hub](https://www.kpl.gov/the-hub/).
* **Eliminating Barriers**:Through the OneCard initiative, more than 700 students without a permanent address have been issued a library card. Additionally, all students who had previously obtained a KPL card have had all fines and fees associated with their accounts waived, providing a fresh start with a new card.
* **Youth Mobility Fund**: In partnership with the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo County public bus system, and with the financial support of the [Foundation for Excellence](https://www.kalamazoocity.org/ffe), KPL and KPS are proud to offer free public transit for all high schoolers. With their student IDs, KPS high school students can now take advantage of the metro transit system free of charge to ensure they can get to school, jobs, the library and youth development initiatives throughout the city.

**Keys to Success**

* **First Grade Visits:** Each year, all KPS first graders visit Central Library three times with their classmates. During these visits, students are taught how to use their cards, find the books they love, access computers and learn how older kids and adults use the library.
* **OneCards for KPS Teachers and Staff:** Through the OneCard initiative, all KPS teachers and staff are eligible for OneCards. This helps spark the conversation inside the classroom, provides an opportunity to model library borrowing behavior and ensures that KPS faculty have access to all KPL materials, even if they live outside the service district.

**Ongoing Impact**

The OneCard partnership is set to operate in perpetuity. KPL and KPS meet quarterly to review the initiative and plan for the future. The reaction from the community has been enthusiastic and supportive, while the initiative itself has opened new avenues of conversation and additional opportunities for collaboration. For more information, please contact Kevin King at [KevinK@kpl.gov](mailto:KevinK@kpl.gov).