



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: City Council
Date: June 2, 2026
Contact: Melinda Hodges, Library Director
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2026-487- / H.3

ITEM TITLE: Adoption of a Resolution approving an update to the Buda Public Library's policies allowing a waiver of the non-residency fee for children and teens attending a school in the Hays Consolidated Independent School District (Library Director Melinda Hodges)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Library Commissioners and staff are proposing to update library policies to include a blanket non-residency fee waiver for children and teens who live outside of the City of Buda and Hays County but that attend school at a Hays Consolidated Independent School District (Hays CISD) campus.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Historically, people residing within Hays County have been eligible to set up an account for no charge at the Buda Public Library. Several new residential developments have been built that are outside of Hays County but geographically within Buda. The children living in these areas attend schools in Hays CISD.

3. ANALYSIS

In an effort to offer educational equity to all students in our community, we would like these children and teens to be welcomed to use the library's resources in the same manner their schoolmates do. By investing in all the children in our community, we set them up for more productive and civically engaged lives.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Library accounts for patrons living outside of Hays County cost \$15 a year. In FY2025, the library collected \$5,820 in non-resident fees. So far in FY2026, we have collected \$3,525. It is estimated that there are currently 20 library cardholders who would fall into this new category and whose future fees would be waived.

This would reduce the amount of non-residency fees that the library would charge. However, given the limited number of families that this would apply to, it is unlikely to make a meaningful difference to the revenue that the library accumulates over a fiscal year.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

EXCEPTIONAL CITY SERVICES

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

2E. Enhanced customer-friendly service City Government

7. PROS AND CONS

Pro: children and teens already living in our community and attending our local school district will have the same access to library resources and services as their peers. This sets them up to have better literacy and critical thinking skills. A well-educated populace contributes positively to the overall community atmosphere.

Cons: fewer non-residency fees being collected.

8. ALTERNATIVES

Keep the residency requirements as they are.

Define a more specific requirement for students to receive free accounts.

Allow everyone living within the Hays CISD attendance area to receive a free card, whether or not they are attending a Hays CISD school.

Open up residency to a wider area.

Eliminate non-residency fees for everyone.

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

The Library Commission recommended this action for approval at their May 14, 2026 meeting.

Library staff requests that the Council consider this request for approval.

Attachments:

[Resolution - Library policy update.pdf](#)

[2026-0602 - Exhibit A - Library policy update.pdf](#)