



# New Castle District Library Center

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To: Directors and staff of libraries in the New Castle District

From: Amy Geisinger, New Castle District Consultant

Date: August 11, 2014

Re: Free library cards to ALL residents of the New Castle District Service Area

In a recent conversation with Commonwealth Libraries, it was made clear that the New Castle Public Library must issue FREE library cards to all residents of our service area as cited in the following Library Code § 9314(b)(2) and Regulations § 141.22(b)(1), respectively:

**§ 9314. District library centers.**

(b) Powers and duties.--A district library center may:

- (1) Coordinate the services of local libraries within the district library center system by contracting with a municipality or board of trustees or managers of a local library to become part of the system.
- (2) Provide direct library service without charge to all residents of the district.
- (3) Provide supplementary library services to all local libraries within the district.
- (4) Exchange or provide services with other district library centers or contract for the provision of library services with other district library centers

**§ 141.22. District library centers.**

(b) *Structure and government.* The structure and government of a district library center shall be as follows:

- (1) A district library center is a library designated as such by the State Librarian and the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development and which shall receive State aid for the purpose of making resources and services available without charge to all the residents and the taxpayers of its district as specified by section 211 of The Library Code (24 P. S. § 4211).

All residents of Armstrong, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties are eligible to receive FREE library cards from the New Castle Public Library, without following the Access PA procedures. This means that if a resident of one of our district counties comes to the New Castle Public Library, they will be issued a free New Castle Library Card (without an Access PA sticker) whether or not they have a library card from their home library.

All libraries in our District must give non-residents living in Armstrong, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties the option of getting a free card from the New Castle Public Library in lieu of paying for a non-resident card at your library. If the non-resident chooses to drive to New Castle for a free library card, they will still need to pay a non-resident fee if they want to get library card at your library since they are not eligible for Access PA.

This procedure will go into effect on Monday, August 25, 2014. Please contact me at 724-658-6659 x124 if you have any questions or would like to schedule a time for me to talk with your library board about these changes.