



Coastal Plain Regional Library System

Serving Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Tift, and Turner Counties

September 11, 2023

PINES Executive Committee
% Elizabeth McKinney, PINES Program Director

RE: Request to continue using fines-free circulation modifiers indefinitely

On behalf of the Coastal Plain Regional Library System, I am requesting that the PINES Executive Committee approve the use of the fines-free circulation modifiers (DVD2-ff, CD-ff, music-ff, and book-ff) for CPRLS-owned items permanently.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in the Fines-Free Pilot Project, which is slated to end in September 2023. We have found that the benefits to our patrons and staff have greatly outweighed any financial impacts from the loss of fines “revenue” during the pilot project period. In addition, we have not received or been made aware of any feedback from other systems indicating that our fines-free status has negatively impacted their libraries.

The final results of the pilot project will be shared separately. While we have seen some increases in library use over the course of the project, the most significant impact we have felt is the sharp decrease in negative interactions with our patrons. Removing the barrier of overdue fines aids in maintaining a welcoming environment for our community and prevents passing on unnecessary shame over simple, sometimes unavoidable, mistakes or oversights.

We are happy to address any concerns that you have.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sandra Hester

Sandy Hester
Director
shester@cprl.org