

Action Item 1: New Fines-Free Circulation Modifiers

PINES Subcommittee Responses, September 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

Proposed Change to Policy

Proposal submitted by Sarah Holmes, Catoosa County Library System

Summary: To create new fines-free circulation modifier options for:

- e-device-local-ff
- toy-ff
- videogame-ff

Respondents

The following summary is based on feedback from 51 respondents representing 34 library systems.

- Circulation Subcommittee: 11 responses
- Cataloging Subcommittee: 6 responses
- Other Subcommittees: 6 responses
- Library System Directors: 29 responses

Survey Responses

1. Do you agree that adding a fines-free option for e-devices (e-device-local-ff) would be beneficial?

Answer	Number	Percent
Yes	44	85%
No	5	10%
Not Sure	3	5%

2. If the fines-free circulation modifier for "e-device-local-ff" is approved, should it have the same circulation options "e-device-local"? (1/7/14 days, 0 renewals)

Answer	Number	Percent
Yes	49	94%
No	0	0%
Not Sure	3	6%

3. Do you agree that adding a fines-free option for toys (toy-ff) would be beneficial?

Answer	Number	Percent
Yes	44	85%
No	2	4%
Not Sure	6	11%

4. If the fines-free circulation modifier for "toy-ff" is approved, should it have the same circulation options as "toy"? (14 days, 2 renewals)

Answer	Number	Percent
Yes	45	87%
No	1	2%
Not Sure	6	11%

5. Do you agree that adding a fines-free option for video games (videogame-ff) would be beneficial?

Answer	Number	Percent
Yes	43	83%
No	3	6%
Not Sure	6	11%

6. If the fines-free circulation modifier for "videogame-ff" is approved, should it have the same circulation options as "videogame"? (3/7/14 days, 2 renewals)

Answer	Number	Percent
Yes	47	90%
No	1	2%
Not Sure	4	8%

Comments

- All possible modifiers should have a Fines Free option for those libraries using this.
- Although the changes to electronic material fees would be great for our patrons, we want to ensure that we receive materials back in a timely manner, and additional patrons have a better chance to utilize them.
- Chestatee is not a fines free library system. That being said, I don't want to put limitations on what or how Fines Free library systems catalog their items or tell them they have to assess fines on any item.
- I ride the fence on these because I see both the pros and cons. We also don't have toys or video games that circulate; they are library use only.
- It's great to see more FF options for libraries.
- These modifiers do not correspond to the spirit of the fines free effort in our system but they might with others. I don't see a downside to allowing them.
- These seem like necessary updates to accommodate our fines-free friends.
- We do not participate in FINES FREE but support the changes if they are needed by those libraries who do use FINES FREE.
- While I'm still conflicted about the fines free concept, I base my answers on reports that libraries (in and outside of Georgia) who employ fines free programs experience the return of materials in greater numbers than when materials are fined.
- With the increase of fines free usage I think the committee should go ahead and approve a fine free modifier for all the circ mods that might need one instead of doing it individually.