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# HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LEARNING LINK

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE HPL LEARNING LINK?

The HPL Learning Link is a special Houston Public Library account for HISD students that uses a student's HISD ID number as their library card. This account allows students to check out books at any of HPL's 43 locations and access online, pre-approved, age-appropriate HPL resources through the HUB, HISD's online teaching and learning platform. A student's HPL Learning Link account number and pin is formatted as follows:

**Account Number:** First initial of last name (capitalized) followed by student ID number  
Example: John Smith, student ID number 12345678  
HPL Learning Link account number: S12345678

**Pin Number:** Student's birthday month and birth date  
Example: July 25  
Pin number: 0725

### WHICH ONLINE RESOURCES DOES MY CHILD HAVE ACCESS TO?

Students will only have access to age-appropriate, HPL online resources that have been pre-approved by the HISD offices of Elementary and Secondary Curriculum. When a student logs into the HUB ([HoustonISD.org/hub](https://HoustonISD.org/hub)) and clicks on the HPL Learning Link logo under the "Digital Resources" tab, they will automatically be directed to the appropriate school level of online resources (elementary, middle, or high school) based on their district login and password. Students who do not know their district login or password can get that from their teacher.

### TOP RESOURCES BY GRADE LEVEL THAT ARE PRE-APPROVED BY HISD INCLUDE:

Elementary (PreK-5)	Middle (6-8)	High (9-12)
TumbleBooks	Explora	NoveList
Explora	Britannica for Young Adults	Literature Resource Center
National Geographic for Kids	e-Books on Overdrive	e-Books on Overdrive

### DO STUDENT ACCOUNTS REPLACE TRADITIONAL LIBRARY CARDS?

No. If a student already has a HPL MY Link library card, they will continue to be able to use it to check out materials from the library and use in-library computers. The student accounts supplement the MY Link library card and improve each student's ability to access HPL online research tools as part of their school work. Students who do not yet have a MY Link library card may obtain one after verifying eligibility.

### ARE ALL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE AND HAVE A STUDENT ACCOUNT?

Any student enrolled at a school in HISD is eligible for a student HPL Learning Link account. Accounts are automatically active upon a child's first day of enrollment at HISD.

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### **CAN A PARENT CHOOSE TO OPT THEIR CHILD OUT OF THE LEARNING LINK PROGRAM?**

If you do not want your child to have access to library materials, you may opt out by submitting an opt-out form. Be aware that students who opt out of Learning Link will not be able to participate in classroom use of library resources unless they have a Houston Public Library MY Link card and know the full card number and PIN. Submit one form per child.

Link for opt-out form: [HoustonLibrary.org/learn-explore/learning-link-opt-out-form](https://HoustonLibrary.org/learn-explore/learning-link-opt-out-form)

### **ARE THERE ANY OVERDUE FINES AND FEES?**

Students will never have overdue fines on their student library account. However, students will be responsible for a \$10 fee per item that is lost or damaged. Accounts will become inactive once a student reaches \$50 in non-returned books.

### **DO STUDENT ACCOUNTS EXPIRE?**

The student account remains active until the student departs HISD (i.e., the student transfers to a new school district or graduates).

### **HOW MANY ITEMS CAN THE STUDENT BORROW?**

Students may borrow as many as 10 items at one time for FREE, including e-books and audio books.

### **HOW LONG CAN THE STUDENT KEEP LIBRARY MATERIALS?**

The standard loan period is three weeks. Most items may be renewed for one additional three-week period. The renewal period is calculated from the date the items are renewed. The maximum loan period, including renewal, is six weeks.

### **WILL STUDENT ACCOUNTS WORK DURING THE SUMMER WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION?**

Yes. Student accounts provide 24/7 access year-round.

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