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The Teen Room is a unique, innovative, dedicated place for teens (students in grades 6-12) that provides materials, space, and technology for recreational and educational activities including, but not limited to, homework, reading and literacy development, socializing, gaming, extracurricular activities, instructor- or librarian-led programming, special events, tutoring, self-expression and creativity, and community engagement.

The Teen Room is supervised by the Teen Services Librarian or another staff member who is trained to advocate for and provide service to teenage patrons. Use is restricted to students in middle and high school. Adult use of the room is limited to brief, temporary access to retrieve materials (browsing and picking up books and other items is limited to 15 minutes), picking up and dropping off family members, and tutors actively working with students at appropriate study tables (limited to two hours daily). Children under the age of 11 are not allowed to use the Teen Room unless they are accompanied by a family member for brief periods of time (limited to 15 minutes) and all young children must be accompanied by an adult in any area of the Library, per the Child Safety Policy.

Exceptions may be made for the use of the Teen Room for groups or individuals granted permission by the Teen Services Librarian during school hours (generally 10 am - 3 pm weekdays during the school year); examples of such exceptions are members of the homeschooling community, community groups and clubs, and professional organizations.

Teen Room policies protect the rights of teen and “tween” patrons to comfortably and confidently utilize the Teen Room without opportunity for inappropriate or restrictive adult interaction, promote equity and diversity, and enhance creativity, age-appropriate communication, skill-building, and personal development in a teen-friendly environment.

Library staff may ask adults to leave the Teen Room and will take appropriate measures, including contacting local authorities, to provide a safe space for teenage patrons. All library patrons are welcome to use non-restricted areas of the Library; therefore, teens may use the general reading room, public-use computers, and other places and materials outside of the Teen Room.

These policies are in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Library Association’s YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) Teen Spaces policy (approved 2012).