



9.0 | Policies & Procedures – Teen Services

Mission Statement

McAllen Public Library strives to create a warm, safe, and inviting environment for its teen patrons. The Teen Department is dedicated to providing access to materials, resources, and professional guidance to meet the intellectual, educational, and recreational needs of young adults ages 11-18 years old or 6th-12th grade.

Objectives:

- Introduce teens to the public library environment and provide support as they transition into adulthood.
- Provide teens with easy access to current information and quality literature in a variety of formats.
- Provide complete and accurate answers to reference questions and encourage critical research skills.
- Provide informative and entertaining programs that encourage the use of the Library and lifelong learning and reading.
- Serve as a social gathering space to encourage the exchange of information and resources.

9.1 | Unattended Teens

The Library does not assume responsibility for the supervision or safety of unattended teens. Older siblings or teens should not be given responsibility of younger siblings or children within the Teen Department. If it is determined that a child is unattended by an adult, a staff member will bring the child to Children's Services staff. The staff member will try to locate the parent or responsible guardian.

9.2 | Collection Development of Teen Department Material

The Teen Collection provides materials in a variety of formats and is intended to meet the current and anticipated needs of the teen community.

An up-to-date, attractive and useful collection is maintained through continual review and replacement process. Replacement of worn volumes is dependent upon current demand, usefulness, more recent acquisitions, and availability of new editions. Materials are selected on the basis of literary and artistic merits, popular demand, and their contribution to the balance of the total collection and their suitability of content and vocabulary to the age of the readers.

9.3 | Adult Use of the Teen Collection

The Teen Department is reserved for teens and those who accompany them as well as those adults interested in Young Adult literature. Adults 18 and over not accompanying a teen will be asked to relocate to the adult section.

9.4 | Teen Programming

Teen Department staff offer a variety of age-appropriate programs that foster an appreciation of literature and promote the development of information and social literacy skills. The Teen Department has a Nintendo Switch and XBOX ONE. These items are available for use during staffed hours for those in grades 6th -12th. They may be subject to availability of the space.

9.5 | Tours of the Teen Department and Community Outreach

The library welcomes visitors interested in gaining a broad overview of the many services, resources, and events the Library has to offer. Tours are available free of charge, upon submission of the online request form available on the Library's website at <https://mcallenlibrary.net/services/tours/>.

For Community Outreach inquiries, an outreach request form is available online at <https://mcallenlibrary.net/services/outreach/>.

9.6 | Teen Behavior in the Library

Teens are expected to engage with staff and other library users with respect. Teens are expected to refrain from offensive, harmful, or extremely loud language; refrain from insulting and bullying one another; refrain from any physical action that may upset, harm or distract other library patrons. Behavior that interferes with the use of the Library by other patrons and library staff will not be tolerated. In the event a teen is asked to leave the Library for the day, his / her parents may be contacted.