



## Behavior Policy

*Supersedes Library Behavior Policy approved March 19, 2018.*

*Approved by the Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees on 04/17/2023 . Next review date: 04/2026*

---

### **Policy Statement:**

The Library is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all its users. Behavior that disturbs others' use of the library, creates an unsafe environment, impedes the work of library staff, or creates a risk of damage to library property is not permitted. Behavior that violates local, state, and/or federal laws is prohibited. These behavior expectations apply to all library property, both inside and outside of the building. Additionally, these expectations apply wherever library service interactions occur.

Library users are expected to respect staff requests to stop unacceptable behavior. Those who violate this policy may simply be asked to correct the behavior, but may also be asked to leave the Library for the day, have their phone or online communication terminated or deleted, have Library privileges and/or access suspended, or be subject to legal action depending on the severity of the behavior. Appeals may be made to the Safety and Security Supervisor or designee. For some examples of unacceptable behaviors in the library, please refer to the list below.

### **Unacceptable behavior in the Library includes, but is not limited to:**

1. Being under the influence of or in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs
2. Smoking in the Library or within 25 feet of the Library entrances (includes the use of any tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and electronic smoking devices)
3. Using obscene, threatening, harassing, or abusive language or gestures - including abusive language and gestures directed at race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, gender and identity, and other personal characteristics
4. Fighting, physical assault, verbal or written threat of violence
5. Carrying a weapon into the Library unless authorized by law; unconcealed firearms are prohibited in the Library
6. Bringing an animal into the Library with the following exceptions:

- a. an animal that is part of a Library-approved program
  - b. a service animal (a dog) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability or
  - c. a qualifying miniature horse
7. Tethering an animal on Library grounds
8. Using electronic devices without earphones or at a volume that disturbs others
9. Prolonged or chronic sleeping that causes significant disturbance to others or that limits access to entrances, exits, resources, or staff, lying on the floor, tables, or desks
10. Skateboarding, rollerblading, and bicycling in the Library or on the Library grounds
11. Soliciting, panhandling, or canvassing in the Library (except as expressly approved by the Library)
12. Not wearing shirt/top and/or shoes
13. Causing odor that unreasonably interferes with other patrons' ability to use the Library and its facilities.
14. Failure to follow rules set in [Youth Safety Policy](#)
15. Failure to follow rules regarding food and drink in the Library, listed below:
  - a. Drinks in covered containers and snacks in packages or sealed containers are allowed in most areas of the Library
  - b. No food or snacks are allowed in the Computer Lab or at public computers, Local History Room, or SOUND+VISION Studio
  - c. The following are representative of the types of food not allowed in the Library except as part of a scheduled meeting or Library program: messy or greasy food, food that is noisy when consumed, hot food items such as pizza, fried chicken, fries, etc.