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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New evening rule supports youth and community safety at Oshkosh Public Library

Oshkosh Public Library has a new temporary rule regarding evening hours for minors. Beginning Mon., April 14, unaccompanied minors who need to use the library after 6:30 p.m. are required to check in at a Greeter Station, sign into the library, and show their student ID, state-issued ID, driver's license or library card.

The decision follows a recent increase in evening incidents involving teens who have repeatedly broken the library's behavior policy. These disruptions have affected the library experience for other patrons and placed a strain on staff.

Library staff have made ongoing efforts to engage teens in a positive and respectful way, encouraging them to follow the library's Behavior Policy. While many young people use the library responsibly, continued behavioral issues in the evenings have prompted this temporary measure to help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all. Library staff do not foresee the need for the measure to continue past the end of the current school year.

"We want the library to remain a space where everyone feels safe," said Library Director Darryl Eschete. "By asking that minors be accompanied by a parent or guardian after 6:30 p.m., we're promoting a safer space for young people while also supporting library staff and the community."

Staff are available to answer any questions. Signs are posted on the main entrance doors, and information will be shared on the library's Facebook page.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss the new guidelines with their children. Exceptions will be made for library programs or outside events that specifically permit unaccompanied minors.

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