

Commonly Asked Questions about the eRead Illinois Fee Structure

Where does the fee go?

- Every single dollar of your annual fee goes towards content for the collection.
- RAILS covers all administrative and related fees, including platform management, selection, collection development, support, and vendor negotiations. These costs are completely subsidized by RAILS and not included in your annual fee.

eRead Illinois harnesses the power of collective purchasing. If your annual fee is \$500 a year:

- You would only have access to approximately 12-13 titles a year* if you didn't participate in eRead Illinois.
- With eRead Illinois, that same \$500 fee is your contribution to the shared collection and gives you access to over 64,000 titles a year. The entire collection is worth over \$2.5 million.

*average of \$40/title

RAILS updated the fee structure in 2023 for the first time in eRead Illinois's 10-year history:

- To ensure the health and sustainability of the collection. Each library's annual fee funds the purchase of e-books and audiobooks in the collection. A sustainable collection means sufficient items and copies, which reduces wait times for popular titles and provides greater access for students and library users.
- To be more equitable and fair across the program.

Why charge a fee per school building?

- RAILS serves a complex school library landscape that includes over 3,700 school library buildings, all with unique attributes, including automation setups, LLSAP (shared online catalog) membership, district boundaries, budgets, and communities. The only way to accommodate all of these variables and serve schools equitably is to assess an eRead Illinois fee per building.
- To reflect actual usage and enable schools to tailor the collection to student population needs.