

# Macomb Daily

## Library program seeks to put a card in every student's hand



Alessandro Romero, 9, and his sister Talia, 11, of Macomb, look for books to read at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. (Ray Skowronek/The Macomb Daily)

By [Frank DeFrank](#), The Macomb Daily

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iPads and smart phones might be standard issue for today's students, but the latest educational tool available for Chippewa Valley kids is decidedly old-school.

It's called a library card.

And if Larry Neal has his way, every student in Clinton Township will have a card by the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

"I want every kid to have the opportunity to succeed in life, and I want the library to contribute to that success," said Neal, director of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Neal's library was selected as one of just 30 in the nation to participate in the ConnectED challenge, a White House-based initiative designed to ensure every student enrolled in school has a library card and access to all of the educational services that offers.

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library is launching ConnectEd in conjunction with Chippewa Valley Schools, but students who attend Clintondale Public Schools as well as other schools within the township also will be eligible.

"We want all the students to have cards at the end of the school year," Neal said. "We're starting with one district (Chippewa Valley) and finding out what the issues are."

Chippewa Valley recently sent a letter home to parents announcing the ConnectED program. The district plans to make it easy for students to register by using their school-issued identification numbers.

Students and parents also will have a choice to opt out of the library card program if they desire.

Once students are registered for the program, they'll have access to a plethora of services and opportunities worthy of a high-tech world. A partial list of offerings available to help students success in school include:

- Tutor.com, which connects students to professional tutors online for homework help;
- Electronic reference sources like encyclopedias to provide accurate research;
- Pronunciator foreign language learning program;
- Electronic books and magazines;
- Access to library programs and reading clubs.

“It’s what we offer every day,” Neal said. “We’ve been offering most of this for 15 years. But a lot of it is getting word out to parents.”

Ron Roberts, superintendent of Chippewa Valley Schools, said today’s students are “inundated with outside influences” that increase the difficulty of securing a quality education.

Programs like ConnectED that can help students overcome some of those hurdles are welcome, he said.

“I’m really excited about this,” said Roberts. “Anything we can do to support our kids.”

For more information about the ConnectED program for Clinton Township students, call the Clinton-Macomb Public Library at 586-226-5000 or visit the library Website at [www.cmpl.org](http://www.cmpl.org).

### **About the Author**



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