



# IMPORTANT UPDATE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY ON INDEFINITE PAUSE



## Dear Families,

The Flint & Genesee Literacy Network (FGLN) and Mott Community College (MCC) have received notification that the availability of federal funding to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) in Genesee County will end on August 30, 2025.

The program will be paused indefinitely beginning September 1, 2025.

While this news is deeply disappointing, we celebrate the positive impact the program has had on children and families across the county. Since its launch in Flint in 2016—and expansion countywide in December 2023—DPIL has placed 350,000 books directly into the hands of our children, helping them build home libraries and discover the joy of reading. Thanks to this program, more than 21,500 children have been able to share in these special moments of learning and imagination.

Your family will continue **receiving books through the end of September**. While funding is paused, FGLN and MCC are working hard to find other funding sources—local, state, and philanthropic—to bring DPIL, or a similar program, back to Genesee County in the future. We remain fully committed to early literacy and will not stop advocating for opportunities like this for our community's children.

In the meantime, we encourage you to keep the love of books and reading alive at home and at your local library.

Here are a few free ways to keep stories in your child's hands:

- **Visit your local library** for story time and book borrowing ([thgdl.org](http://thgdl.org) and [fpl.info](http://fpl.info))
- **Get involved with Great Start Collaborative Genesee.** GSC shares early literacy resources and support for families ([gsc.geneseeisd.org](http://gsc.geneseeisd.org))
- **Explore Little Free Libraries** in your neighborhood ([littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org))
- **Ask schools, community centers, or faith groups** about book giveaways

If there are any changes in the funding situation, we will reach out to you right away with updates. Please know that we are grateful for your participation and support, and we share in your commitment to nurturing a love of reading in every child.

With care and gratitude,

*Jessica Kitchner*

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**Dear Families,**

Flint & Genesee Literacy Network loves sharing the gift of books with your children through Genesee Reads and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Unfortunately, Mott Community College (MCC) and the Flint & Genesee Literacy Network (FGLN) have received notification of the indefinite pause of federal funding that supports Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) in Genesee County. We want you to know why, what it means for your family, and how you can help.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is the program paused?**

Our local county-wide program was funded by a federal grant in 2022 and extended in 2023. The final extension of the grant was declined under a new federal policy directive. Right now, funding for the program in Genesee County has been eliminated.

### **Will my child still get books?**

Current DPIL families will receive books through September 2025 (books already processed are still on the way).

### **Is this permanent?**

The program is entering an indefinite pause. We are actively exploring every option to bring it back, though we cannot provide a timeline at this point.

### **Can I register a new child right now?**

Not at this time. Should the program return, registration will reopen.

### **How much does it cost to provide books?**

It costs about \$2.20 per child per month (around \$26 a year). Dolly Parton's foundation pays for the book program itself, but local communities raise money to cover the books and mailing.

### **How can I help?**

- Contact your local, state, and federal legislators to share why this program matters to your family. Personal stories make a difference.
- Make a donation to support local children.
- Spread the word about the importance of early literacy.
- Connect us with businesses or groups that may want to sponsor.
- Share your story with us. Your voice helps us advocate for long-term solutions.

### **What can I do to keep my child excited about books and reading?**

- Visit your local public library for storytime and borrowing. Visit the [Gloria Coles Flint Public Library](#) and [Genesee District Library](#).
- Get involved with [Great Start Collaborative Genesee](#). GSC shares early literacy resources and support for families.
- Look for [Little Free Libraries](#) in your neighborhood.
- Ask schools, community centers, or faith groups about book giveaways.

### **Who can I contact with questions?**

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