

TRUSTEES' HANDBOOK—POLICIES
BOXFORD TOWN LIBRARY

Policy on Service to Library Patrons and Residents of Decertified Municipalities

In order for a municipality to be certified in Massachusetts, it must meet certain minimum standards of funding and service mandated by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). A municipality that does not fund its public library adequately preventing the library from meeting minimum standards is “decertified” by the MBLC.

Massachusetts General Laws (605 CMR 4.01) state that libraries in certified municipalities are not required to loan materials to residents of decertified municipalities. A Massachusetts municipality that is not a participant in the state aid program, cannot demonstrate that their library is able to reciprocate in resource sharing arrangements with other municipal libraries. As a participant in the state aid program, the Boxford Town Library shares its resources with Massachusetts communities that have been certified by the MBLC.

In the interests of protecting the resources of Boxford’s taxpayers and as an incentive to neighboring communities to fairly fund their own libraries, the Boxford Town Library will not extend borrowing privileges to Massachusetts public libraries, or to the residents in those decertified municipalities.

Municipalities that receive a waiver from the MBLC are considered certified. Residents of municipalities receiving a waiver will be permitted to borrow materials.

The Boxford Town Library welcomes residents of all municipalities. However, residents of decertified municipalities are only able to use library services and resources within the bounds of the Boxford Town Library building.

Policy voted and adopted on: 3/10/05

Policy last reviewed and amended on: 10/21/19