

Policy on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Closed or Decertified Libraries

The Beverly Public Library will deny borrowing privileges, including interlibrary loan, to residents of communities with closed or decertified libraries.

Service to library patrons is greatly enhanced by cooperative efforts of libraries willing to share resources. This idea relies on every library making a contribution to the collective effort. If a library fails to maintain minimum standards for collection development, hours of operation, or staffing--as defined and governed by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners--that library puts excessive reliance on other libraries.

As a participant in the certification and state aid program, the Beverly Public Library shares its resources with the Massachusetts public libraries and residents of the state whose libraries have been certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

To encourage all communities in our state to fairly fund their libraries and fully participate in the cooperative effort, the Beverly Public Library Trustees voted to decline borrowing privileges and library services to decertified libraries and citizens of those communities.

The Beverly Public Library will continue to **welcome** all residents of Massachusetts to its buildings regardless of the certification of their hometown libraries.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: April 29, 2025