

## **Policy**

### **Lending to Residents of Municipalities with Decertified Libraries**

Public libraries in Massachusetts that do not meet the minimum standards for funding and service necessary for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) are ‘decertified’ by the Board. As such, they are not eligible to receive state aid to public libraries, apply for LSTA grants, participate in reciprocal borrowing with other libraries, or contract with a region to provide supplemental services.

Massachusetts state law (605 CMR 4.01) states that certified public libraries are not required to lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries.

This policy aims to address the issue of the fair and appropriate use of Arlington tax dollars spent on public library service by limiting the reliance of a municipality with a decertified library on the Robbins Library and its resources.

The Robbins Library supports the importance of libraries maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for certification by the MBLC. Therefore, the Robbins library will not lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries.

Public libraries that receive waivers for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified. Residents of communities where the library has received a waiver will be allowed to borrow materials from the Robbins Library.

Massachusetts General Law (605 CMR 4.01) states, “all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to reading and reference rooms under that same conditions as residents of the community.” Residents of communities with decertified libraries are therefore welcome to use Robbins Library resources within the library building.

Exceptions may be voted by the Board of Trustees only under extraordinary circumstances.

VOTED: June 12, 2007; March 9, 2010