



Lending to Decertified Libraries Policy

A municipality and its library are certified each fiscal year by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (“MBLC”). To be certified, a municipality and its library must meet the *Municipal Appropriation Requirement* and *Minimum Standards of Free Public Library Service*, and submit annual reports and forms to show compliance.

Under 605 CMR 4.01(6)(a), Libraries in certified municipalities are not required to lend library materials to the library in a noncertified municipality. Libraries in certified municipalities are not required to extend reciprocal library services, beyond in-library use of their materials, to residents of a noncertified municipality, 605 CMR 4.01(6)(b).

The Concord Free Public Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to residents of the Commonwealth, including students, who reside in communities that offer state certified library services. As a member of the Minuteman Library Network, and pursuant to the policies governing members of the Network, each library’s board may choose whether or not to lend items to residents of decertified municipalities.

It is the policy of the Concord Free Public Library (“Library”) to discontinue borrowing privileges to residents of communities without certified public libraries and to discontinue interlibrary loans to such libraries. The Library may, in its sole discretion, grant borrowing privileges to *residents* of communities where a library became “decertified” because of conditions beyond the community’s control, including, but not limited to, fire or natural disaster.

The Library supports the statewide sharing of resources as outlined by the MBLC. This collaborative effort requires the active participation of each community in the Commonwealth, the hallmark of which is maintaining adequate funding for local libraries. These standards are instrumental in making Massachusetts a model of library support and innovation for the country, and this policy affirms the Library’s commitment to upholding those standards.

Approved by the Concord Free Public Library Committee November 4, 2025.