

Policy Regarding Lending Library Materials to Residents (and out-of-state cardholders) of Decertified Communities

Millbury Public Library upholds the importance of maintaining the minimum standards of public library service required for a community to be certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to participate in the State Aid to Public Libraries program. Communities that do not meet MBLC standards and are not granted a waiver are decertified. The closing of a public library for "any reason other than the undertaking of a project to improve library service (construction, automation preparation or inventory) or the occurrence of a natural catastrophe (including a limited emergency closing due to illness or death)"¹ results in immediate decertification.

The regulations governing this program state that "all public libraries participating in the direct state aid grant program must be willing, on a reciprocal basis, to extend direct access and services to nonresidents who are cardholders in other libraries participating in the state grant program..."². The regulations do not oblige participants to lend materials to residents of decertified communities, only to provide "access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the [local] community."³

Full use by residents of decertified communities would be an inappropriate reliance on Millbury Public Library. Permitting such use would subsidize library services to a community unwilling to support its own public library at the expense of Millbury taxpayers. Therefore, Millbury Public Library will not lend library materials to residents and out-of-state cardholders of decertified communities, either through direct reciprocal borrowing or through inter-library loan and network transfers.

1. Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. "Policy, FY2004 State Aid to Public Libraries Program, The Closure of a Public Library". Approved January 9, 2003. (State Aid Policies are approved annually.)
2. 605 CMR 4.01
3. Ibid.

Approved: Board of Library Trustees, September 17, 2003

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URL: <http://www.mh1.org/about/policies/decertified.htm>

Policies from Memorial Hall Library Used wholly or in part in the development of these policies: Approved by Millbury Public Library Board of Trustees.