

# *Residents of Decertified Libraries*

In order for a public library to be certified in Massachusetts it must meet a certain minimum standard of funding and service mandated by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. A public library that does not meet the minimum standards is “decertified” by the Massachusetts Board of Library commissioners and is not eligible to receive State Aid funding, apply for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds, or enter into any contracts with the region to provide supplemental services.

Massachusetts General Laws (605 CMR 4.01) state that certified public libraries are not required to loan materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries.

To protect the resources of Winthrop’s taxpayers and to incentivize neighboring communities to fund their own libraries, Winthrop Public Library and Museum will not extend borrowing privileges, including interlibrary loans, to Massachusetts public libraries that are not certified, or to the residents of those municipalities.

Public libraries that receive a waiver from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified. Residents of municipalities in which the library has received a waiver will be permitted to borrow materials.

As stated in the MA General Laws (605 CMR 4.01) “all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the community.” Winthrop Public Library and Museum welcomes residents of all municipalities, but residents belonging to municipalities with decertified libraries may only use library resources within the boundaries of the library building.

*Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees June 12, 2025*