

Hanson Public Library

Reciprocal Borrowing Policy

The Hanson Public Library is pleased to offer borrowing privileges to Hanson residents as well as Massachusetts residents residing in municipalities with certified public libraries.

In accordance with the Massachusetts' Minimum Standard for Public Library Service (Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 78, Section 19B 1 & 6), the Hanson Public Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to the residents of the Commonwealth who reside in towns who also meet the standards.

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 are 'decertified' by the Board. As such, they are not eligible to receive state aid to public libraries, apply for LSTA grants, or contract with a region to provide supplemental services.

Massachusetts law (605 CMR 4.01) states that certified public libraries are not required to lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries. The Hanson Public Library supports the importance of libraries maintaining at least the minimum standards of public library service required for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Therefore, the Hanson Public Library will discontinue borrowing privileges to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries. Borrowing privileges will be reinstated once a library is re-certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Public libraries that receive waivers from 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 Hanson Public Library.

Residents of communities with decertified libraries who submit written proof that they are Hanson taxpayers shall retain full borrowing privileges at the Hanson Public Library.

Massachusetts law (605 CMR 4.01) states "all residents of the Commonwealth shall have access to reading and reference rooms under the same conditions as residents of the community." Residents of communities with decertified libraries are therefore welcome to use Hanson Public Library resources within the library building.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees
June 22, 2021