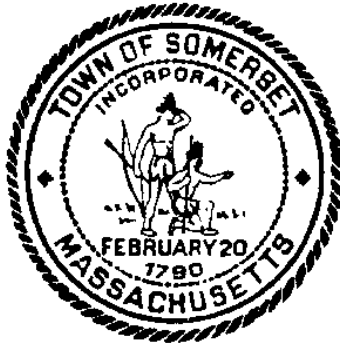


Somerset Public Library

**Statement on Lending to Residents of Municipalities with
Decertified Libraries.**



September 18, 2007

Revision – April 21, 2009
Reaffirmed – September 16, 2014

The Somerset Public Library exists to serve as a center of informal learning, individual growth and recreation for the citizens of Somerset. The Library expects to make a contribution to the learning process and to aid individuals in the lifelong process of growth and appreciation and understanding of themselves, their neighbors, and the world around them. In addition, the library makes its building available as a setting for appropriate events according to the needs and interests of the community.

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 participate in reciprocal borrowing with other libraries.

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.

The Somerset Public Library will not lend materials to residents of municipalities with decertified libraries, as this places an inequitable burden on the Somerset Public Library resources and on local tax dollars.

Teachers residing in a decertified community, but employed by the Somerset school district will be allowed to apply for a Teacher’s Card to borrow materials for the students of their classroom provided they meet the requirements established under the provisions of the Somerset Public Library Teacher Loan Library Card policy.

Massachusetts General 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 the Somerset Public Library resources within the library building.

TRUSTEE APPROVAL DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
09/18/2007	Approved by Board of Library Trustees
04/21/2009	Amended
09/16/2014	Reaffirmed