



MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges Policy

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

As a participant in the State Aid to Public Libraries Program administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Melrose Public Library must comply with requirements regarding use of its collection that are specified in MGL Chapter 78 and further defined in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (605 CMR 4.00).

Service to library patrons is immeasurably enhanced by cooperative efforts among libraries willing to share their resources. The goal of mutual benefit is predicated on the assumption that every participating library will make a contribution to the collective effort. When a library fails to maintain minimum standards in collection development, staffing, and/or hours of service, then its reliance on other libraries becomes disproportionately great, and its contribution to the common good becomes disproportionately small.

It is, therefore, the policy of the Melrose Public Library to discontinue borrowing privileges to residents of communities without certified public libraries as determined by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and discontinue interlibrary loans to such libraries, except when a library is not certified due to conditions beyond the community's control such as fire or natural disaster or other extenuating circumstances as determined by the Board of Trustees.

The only exception to this policy shall be that residents of a community whose public library has been decertified, who submit written proof that they are City of Melrose taxpayers, shall retain full borrowing privileges at the Melrose Public Library.

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 thus welcome to use the Melrose Public Library resources within the library building.

The Melrose Board of Library Trustees agrees to reinstate borrowing privileges to all affected borrowers once a library is re-certified.

Policy approved by Melrose Public Library Board of Trustees February 9, 2021.