



Lynnfield 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 Lynnfield 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 \(MBLC\)](#), the Lynnfield 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.

In the interest of protecting the resources purchased by Lynnfield taxpayers, and as an incentive to neighboring communities to fairly fund their own libraries, the Lynnfield Public Library regrettably declines to continue extending borrowing privileges to residents of decertified municipalities, as determined by the MBLC, and discontinues interlibrary loans to such libraries. An exception will be made when a municipality is not certified due to conditions beyond the community's control, such as fire, natural disaster, or other extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Board of Library Trustees.

The only other exception to this policy shall be that residents of a community that has been decertified, who submit written proof that they are Town of Lynnfield taxpayers (e.g., owners of rental property in Lynnfield), shall retain full borrowing privileges at the Lynnfield 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 decertified municipalities are thus welcome to use the Lynnfield Public Library resources within the library building, including computers, programs, and reference services.

The Lynnfield Public Library Board of Library Trustees agrees to reinstate borrowing privileges to all affected borrowers once their community is re-certified.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on June 3, 2025