

## **Tewksbury Public Library Policy**

### **LENDING MATERIALS TO RESIDENTS OF DECERTIFIED COMMUNITIES**

The Tewksbury Public Library upholds the importance of maintaining the minimum standards of public library service required for a community to be certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to participate in the State Aid to Public Libraries program. Municipalities that do not meet MBLC standards and are not granted a waiver are decertified. The closing of a public library for “any reason other than the undertaking of a project to improve library service (construction, automation preparation or inventory) or the occurrence of a natural catastrophe (including a limited emergency closing due to illness or death)”<sup>1</sup> results in immediate decertification.

The regulations governing this program state that “all public libraries participating in the direct state aid grant program must be willing, on a reciprocal basis, to extend direct access and services to nonresidents who are cardholders in other libraries participating in the state grant program...”<sup>2</sup>. The regulations do not oblige participants to lend materials to residents of decertified municipalities.

Full use of the Tewksbury Public Library by residents of decertified municipalities would be an inappropriate reliance on the Tewksbury Public Library. Permitting such use would subsidize library services to a community unwilling to support its own public library at the expense of Tewksbury taxpayers. Therefore, the Tewksbury Public Library will not lend materials to residents of decertified municipalities, either through direct reciprocal borrowing or through inter-library loan and network transfers.

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. “Policy, FY2005 State Aid to Public Libraries Program, The Closure of a Public Library”. Approved March 5, 2003. (State Aid Policies are approved annually.)

<sup>2</sup> 605 CMR 4.01 (6)