

Reciprocal Borrowing Policy

As a participant in the State Aid to Public Libraries Program administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library must comply with requirements regarding use of its collection that are specified in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, Section 19A and 19B and further defined in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (605 CMR 4.00). The Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to residents of the Commonwealth who reside in communities that offer state certified library services.

In the interests of protecting the resources purchased by Dudley taxpayers, and as an incentive to neighboring communities to fairly fund their own libraries, the Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library regrettably declines to extend borrowing privileges to Massachusetts public libraries that are not certified, and to residents from Massachusetts communities that do not have certified libraries, except when a library is not certified because of conditions beyond the community's control such as fire or natural disaster. Public libraries that receive waivers from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are considered certified and residents of communities where the library has received a waiver will be allowed to borrow materials from the Pearle L Crawford Memorial 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 therefore welcome to use the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library resources within the library building. The Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library will provide immediate reinstatement of borrowing and interlibrary loan privileges to all affected borrowers once a library is recertified.

Approved by Board of Trustees 4/23/24