

Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges Policy

Approved September 1994

Revised Aug. 2003, May 2006, July 2008, Sept. 2013, Dec 2015

Reviewed July 2004

In accordance with the State's Minimum Standard for Public Library Service (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 78, Section 19B, Number 6) the Groton Public Library extends reciprocal borrowing privileges to the residents of the Commonwealth who reside in towns who also meet the state minimum standards for library service.

Such reciprocity is not possible when a library does not meet minimum service requirements as set by the state for the size of the community it serves.

It is therefore the policy of the Groton Public Library to discontinue borrowing privileges to residents of communities whose libraries are not certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The Library Trustees, the Selectmen or City Council, and individuals from the affected community who are registered borrowers of the Groton Public Library, will be notified in writing by the Groton Public Library Trustees whenever the Library Trustees vote to implement the above policy. Exceptions will be made for people who attend school, work, and/or pay taxes in Groton. (Sample letters for such action are included with this policy.)

The Groton Public Library Trustees agree to provide reinstatement of borrowing privileges to all affected borrowers once a library is recertified.

In addition, the Groton Public Library will follow MVLC guidelines for member libraries regarding library services to residents of other states. GPL may only issue a "local use only" card to non-Massachusetts residents who attend school or work in town. Library Staff, Groton property owners who show a tax bill, and educational and other non-profit institutions (the institution, not the individual, may be granted a card) are the only exceptions to this rule.

Note: Some purchased digital services we subscribe to are restricted to use by Groton residents only. As of Sept. 2019, this includes:

- Hoopla Digital Content Library
- TumbleBooks eBooks for Kids
- Pronunciator e-Language Learning
- Consumer Reports Online
- Groton Landmark Online (via Newsbank)
- HeritageQuest Online

Databases (HeritageQuest, Consumer Reports, Groton Landmark) can be used by anyone in the Library, but remote access is available only to Groton residents.

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