



Requirements for Maintaining Library Certification



1. Municipal Appropriation Requirement : town must fund library an amount equal to the average of the three years immediately preceding increased by two and one-half percent.

Library budget was cut disproportionately in comparison to the town's bottom line.

MGL.Chap. 78 Sec. 15A

2. Open to all residents of the Commonwealth.

The Wareham Free Library serves all Massachusetts residents with a valid library card.

3. Make NO charges for normal library services.

Book & audiovisual borrowing, Internet, database access, educational programs for all ages, use of facility - all free.

4. Be open a minimum number of hours per week.

Populations of 15,000 - 24,999 = 50 hours per week, some part of 5 days including evening hours.

Currently operating 25 hours over 4 days, including one evening.

5. Employ trained library personnel, including a Massachusetts certified Library Director.

Volunteers can only support the trained staff; patron privacy always guaranteed.

6. Expend a reasonable portion of the library's total budget on library materials.

Populations of 15,000 - 24,999 = 15% of total library budget.

Currently town budget only covers utilities, salaries, and network fees.

No supplies, equipment or library materials.

7. Lend books to other libraries in the Commonwealth.

Interlibrary loan & virtual catalog make millions of items accessible to you.

8. The filing of an annual report to the MBL.C.

ARIS reports filed annually to maintain state aid & certification

MGL.Chap. 78 Sec. 15B