

Library Decertification FAQs

Dear Hull Public Library Users,

Starting March 1, 2010, Hull residents will only be allowed to receive items from certain libraries in the Old Colony Library Network (OCLN). This action was caused by the Hull Library's de-certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for failure to meet the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR).

What is MAR and why did Hull not meet it?

Communities are required to appropriate an amount for the public library equal to two and a half percent more than the average of the library budgets of the three previous fiscal years. Hull did not appropriate that amount and filed a waiver to retain certification. The MBLC denied Hull's waiver request. However, the MBLC did not take into account fundraising efforts by the Hull Public Library Foundation, which raised an additional \$85,000 for the Library.

Does the Hull Public Library meet other requirements for library certification?

Yes, the above additional monies allowed Hull to meet the purchase of the materials requirement and 80% of the hours requirement. The Hull Public Library continues to meet its minimum requirements for operation by providing 32 hours of free service each week, although this is a reduction from the 45 hours of service previously provided to Hull residents.

Where can I check out library materials?

You can check out library materials at the Hull Public Library, the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy and Massasoit Community College in Brockton and Canton.

Which libraries will honor hold requests (inter-library loans) to be picked up at the Hull Public Library?

The following libraries **will** fill hold requests (inter-library loans) for Hull residents: Brockton, Canton, Eastern Nazarene College, Hanover, Kingston, Massasoit Community College, Norwell, Plymouth, Quincy, Randolph, Rockland, Sandwich, Scituate, and Stoughton.

Which libraries will not provide any service to Hull residents?

The following libraries **will not** fill hold requests (inter-library loans) for Hull residents: Abington, Avon, Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hingham, Holbrook, Marshfield, Sharon, Walpole, Weymouth and Whitman.

Hull residents should expect delays in receiving holds requests and some items may not be available because they belong to libraries that no longer honor hold requests for Hull residents. All holds for Hull residents must now be picked up in Hull.

Can I visit libraries that no longer provide service to Hull residents?

Yes, you can use the materials and facilities of any public library in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, while you are in the building. However, you will not be able to borrow items.

How can the Hull Library be recertified in order to end this reduction in library service from other libraries?

The Town of Hull needs to appropriate no less than \$235,000 at the Annual Town Meeting in May in order to meet the Municipal Appropriation (MAR) in order to be re-certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

How soon can this take place?

The Massachusetts Legislature may recertify the Hull Public Library as soon as July 2010 with filing and passage of special legislation.

The Hull Library Director, Staff and Trustees are here to answer your questions as best we can during this difficult period. Please call us at 781-925-2295 if you have questions or access us online at www.hullpubliclibrary.org or the Old Colony Library Network web page at www.ocln.org

Thank you for your patience.