

Massachusetts Board of
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For More Information

Visit: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/state-aid-and-aris>

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Facts

- The program is voluntary.
- About 98% of the public libraries in Massachusetts participate in the program.
- Municipalities and their public libraries apply to the program annually.
- The program is municipally focused. The requirements apply to local municipal funding of the library, as well as library services.
- The Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) is the required appropriation to the library based on municipal funding (the average of the three prior years' appropriation plus 2.5%)
- When a municipality and its public library apply to the program and meet statutory (MGL, c.78, ss.19A & 19B) and regulatory (605 CMR 4.00) requirements, the Board of Library Commissioners certifies the municipality and its library to participate in the program and State Aid to Public Libraries funding is awarded.



Massachusetts Libraries
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

State Aid to Public Libraries

A Guide for Municipal Officials

**The State Aid
to Public Libraries Program
is at the heart of
sharing materials across
Massachusetts.**

It gives residents
access to 53 million
items beyond what
any single library owns.
This means that
residents get more
while local
communities
save money.



Why Staying Certified Matters

State Aid Certified

YES

- State Aid funds can be used in any way that supports the library.*
- Local communities save money. For example, because the library is State Aid certified, Chicopee residents were able to borrow more than **36,000 items** from other libraries. If the library had to purchase these items it would cost an estimated **\$360,000**.

MUNICIPALITIES have access to:

- millions of dollars in library construction grants through the MBLC's Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program.
- federal grant money for local needs through the MBLC's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Program.
- the MBLC's Small Libraries in Networks program which provides libraries that serve small communities (population under 10,000) with funding to support their network memberships.

RESIDENTS have access to:

- 53 million items from libraries across the state.
- resources through Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library.
- statewide research databases.

?

NO

RESIDENTS have access to:

- their library's own collection.♦
- resources through Library for the Commonwealth at Boston Public Library.
- statewide research databases.

♦ Libraries in certified municipalities are not required to lend library materials to the library in the noncertified municipality (605 CMR 4.01 (6a)). Libraries in certified municipalities are not required to extend reciprocal library services, beyond in-library use of their materials, to residents of the noncertified municipality (605 CMR 4.01 (6b)). Some libraries may choose to lend to non-certified municipalities at the discretion of their trustees.



*Use of State Aid Funds

Funds shall be distributed under the guidelines of the municipal equalization grant program, the library incentive grant program and the nonresident circulation offset program; provided further, that notwithstanding, any general or special law to the contrary, any payment made under this item shall be deposited with the treasurer of the city or town and held in a separate account and shall be expended by the public library of that city or town without appropriation. Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015.

Annual Calendar

June

ARIS workshops help librarians complete the statistics survey

July

Statistics survey opens online to all public libraries

August

Statistics survey closes; State Aid packets sent to all public libraries

September

State Aid workshops help librarians complete the program forms

October

State Aid forms due

November

Board of Library Commissioners meets and certifies the first group of municipalities meeting all State Aid requirements

December

Board meets and certifies the next group of municipalities meeting all State Aid requirements

2017
2018

January

Board meets and reviews petitions and hears presentations of applicants for a waiver of the MAR. *Board certifies the next group of municipalities meeting all State Aid requirements.

February

Board meets and acts on applications for a waiver of the MAR

March

Board meets and hears any appeals of denial of a MAR waiver

April

Board meets and acts on any appeals of denial of a MAR waiver

*Board approval process for libraries meeting all requirements may extend beyond January.

FY2017 NUMBERS

- Of the **351** municipalities in Massachusetts, **350** have public libraries or share public libraries.
- Of the **350** municipalities with libraries, **344** applied for State Aid to Public Libraries.
- 309** met the State Aid to Public Libraries requirements.
- 35** applied for and received waivers of the MAR, down from **123** in 2011.
- 344** were certified to receive State Aid to Public Libraries.

For information on State Aid funding to individual libraries, waiver recipients and libraries that are not certified see: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/state-aid-and-aris>

MBLC State Aid staff provides following services: Data collection, verification and analysis; grant calculation, programming, and processing; statistical report development and distribution; trainings, workshops, and webinars; certification of librarians; data maintenance and back-up; resources for librarians and municipal officials; payment processing and reconciliation; advisory for library directors.

Background

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners administers the State Aid to Public Libraries program. State Aid has been awarded to municipalities and their public libraries since 1890 when The Acts of 1890, chapter 347, 'An Act to Promote the Establishment and Efficiency of Free Public Libraries,' established the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts. This guide highlights key elements of State Aid to Public Libraries. For complete information, please visit the MBLC website: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/state-aid-and-aris>