

Public Library State Certification

What it means for the Amesbury Public Library

Why does certification matter?

- Allows Amesbury card holders to borrow from any Massachusetts library
- Allows Amesbury to stay in the MVLC consortium
- Library gets awarded State Aid Funds

Certification Requirements



Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR)

Minimum funding required. Equation that averages last 3 years budgets increased by 2.5%

$$[(FY23 + FY24 + FY25) / 3] \times 1.025 = FY26 \text{ MAR}$$

Amesbury Status

Most years funded exactly at MAR level



Materials Expenditure Minimum Level

Based on population, percentage of total library budget spent on items for public to check out/use. Can be met with multiple funding sources.

State Level for Amesbury = 15%

Amesbury Status

In FY25 had to find \$13,000 from sources outside the operating budget



Minimum Hours Open Per Week

Based on population, must comply for 38 weeks consecutively in fiscal year.

**State Level for Amesbury = 50hrs/week,
5 days/week, some evening hours**

Amesbury Status

In FY25 fell to 90% compliance

*staffing shortages lead to building closures



Other Requirements (Amesbury Status = full compliance)

- Open to all residents of the Commonwealth
- Make no charge for normal library services
- Director holds an MLS in populations over 10,000
- Lend books and other materials to other libraries in the Commonwealth

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Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR)

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Materials Expenditure Minimum Level

State Level for Amesbury = 15%