

Why State Certification Matters

FY 26

FY 27 PROPOSED

Immediate Budget Offset Loss

In 2026, certification resulted in an award of \$9600 to Southampton.

In 2026, \$2500 was discounted from the library's invoice for CWMARS network services (\$11,799 for FY26.)

The noncertified municipality and its library will not receive any State Aid to Public Libraries monies (M.G.L. c.78, s.19A).

The library will not receive support through the Small Libraries in Networks Program.

Reciprocal Borrowing

Southampton Patrons borrow from 150 Libraries in person and through interlibrary loan

6731 physical items borrowed in 2025

Access to 65,000 digital items like ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines

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)).

Federal Grant Access

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.

No access to federal construction or LSTA grants.

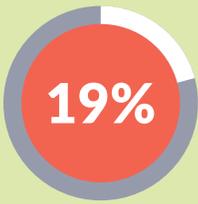
Long Term Losses

It estimated that it takes 3 years or budget cycles for a decertified public library to be recertified. Per Jennifer Inglis of MBLC: "If you were to become decertified, you would have to meet the requirements for State Aid for a full fiscal year after becoming decertified. If, for example, you were decertified in February 2027 (FY27), you wouldn't be able to apply for State Aid again until the FY29 grant ground (which takes place in October 2028).

To meet State Certification, we must meet three standards related to our municipal budget as shown here:

MER

The Materials Expenditure Requirement (MER) is defined in statute and regulation (MGL, c.78, s.19B; 605 CMR 4.01[5]). It is a percentage of the municipal appropriation to the library, based on the population of the municipality served by the library.



Our MER is 19% of our total library budget

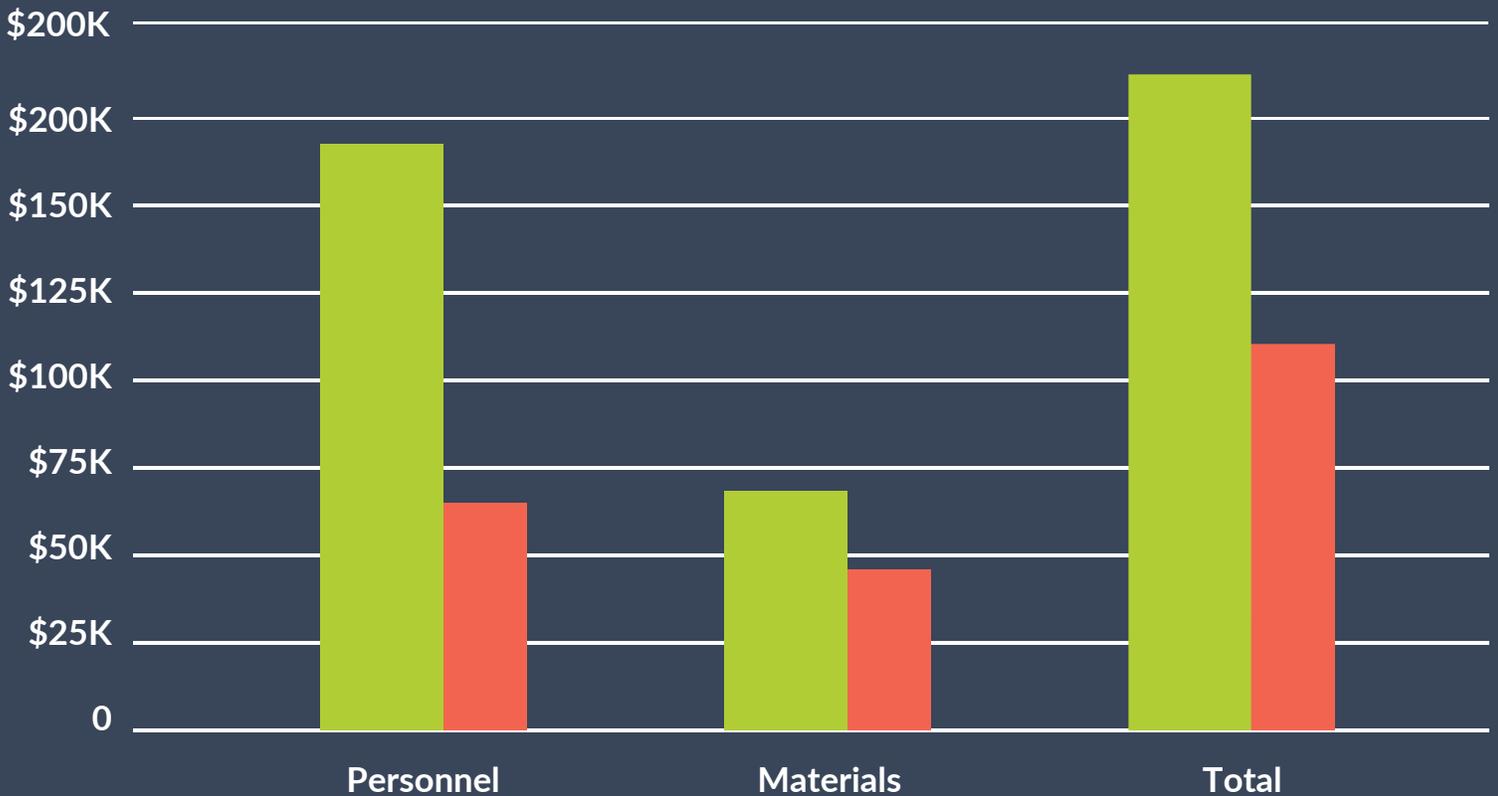
MAR

Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L., c.78, s.19A) states that a municipality **MUST** appropriate a figure of at least the average of the last 3 years' municipal appropriations to the library for operations, increased by 2.5%, in order to be certified for State Aid to Public Libraries.

FY 27 MAR MUST BE \$210,563

Hours*: 25 Hours with some evening hours

*Hours meet required amount by population



Personnel Budget Level Services \$170,410.76
 Personnel Budget With Override Failure \$67,831.40
 Materials Budget Level Services \$68,200
 Materials Budget With Override Failure \$48,000
 Total Budget to Meet MAR \$210,563
 Total Budget with Override Failure \$115,831.40