



State Certification from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC)

How does it work?

The Town is required to fund the Public Library as a certain minimum in order to retain certification. The formula for that minimum Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) is to take the average of the last three years of the MAR or Town Appropriated Municipal Income (TAMI, the actual library budget), whichever is higher, and multiply that by 1.025, to reach the MAR for the next Fiscal Year.

Plainville's MAR for FY22 is 246,482. At the current recommendation of \$246,482 we meet that requirement and we are CERTIFIED.

If the library was cut by any amount we do NOT meet that requirement and must apply for a waiver. Waivers are not guaranteed. There are a limited number of waivers in the State Legislature language. The MBLC now requires any waiver recipient to submit a plan for a 5 year recovery to correct the budget to the MAR. The MAR always goes UP, every year due to the "higher of the two" in the formula above.

It took the library 9 years to get out of a 7% cut hole in 2009 because we were granted funds to open again on Fridays in 2018.

Other requirements for population under 10,000: Be open a minimum of 25 hours, spend 19% of budget on library materials.

Requirements change at over 10,000: Be open a minimum of 40 hours, spend 16% of budget on library materials.

What does Certification Mean?

You can go to any library in the state and get a library card and borrow items.

You can order materials to come here for you from any library in the state.

You can return items from any library to the Plainville Library.

You can get eBooks from any library catalog in Massachusetts.

The Library receives just over \$18,000 of state aid funds each year that we use to pay for our membership in the SAILS Library Network. And a Small Library in Networks Grant of \$2,475

The Library can apply for state grants, of which we have received over \$23,000 in the last 10 years. Grants that funded additional children's programs like baby yoga and the Kingdom of Why, along with our new Play with a Purpose furniture and outdoor play items.

The Library staff has access to FREE continuing education classes through the Massachusetts Library System (MLS).

The Library receives item delivery every day through MLS.

The Statewide Summer Reading planning and promotional materials are provided to the Library by MLS at no cost.

MHEC membership for reduced cost library supplies saved us over \$18,000