

26-27

TOUCHPOINT TUESDAY

September 15, 2026

dese



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

Agenda

Greetings & Introductions
Welcome New Designees
Theme for 2026-27
Reconnect to Our Purpose
Working Groups
Recent Webinars
Annual Report
Upcoming Data Trainings
Fiscal Announcements
Resources

NOTE: Immediately following today's meeting, we would like for new designees to remain on the call for a Welcome Session.

Welcome Aaron Altman

Director of Early College, DHE



Welcome New Designees

Secondary School Partner	Institution of Higher Education (IHE)
Bourne High School (Bourne Public Schools)	Mass Maritime Academy University
CityLab Innovation High School (Revere Public Schools)	Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School (Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District)	Bridgewater State University
Neighborhood House Charter School	Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
New Bedford High School (New Bedford School District)	Bridgewater State University
Woburn Memorial High School (Woburn Public Schools)	University of Massachusetts- Lowell
Bartlett-Webster High School (Webster Public Schools)	Worcester State University
Boston International Newcomers Academy, Margarita Muniz Academy, and Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (Boston Public Schools)	Roxbury Community College
Holbrook Middle High School (Holbrook Public Schools)	Quincy College
Oliver Ames High School (Easton Public Schools)	Quincy College

Welcome New Designees

Secondary School Partner	Institution of Higher Education (IHE)
Brockton High School (Brockton Public Schools)	University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth
Burlington High School (Burlington Public Schools)	Middlesex Community College
Chelmsford High School (Chelmsford Public Schools)	Middlesex Community College
Chelsea High School (Chelsea Public Schools)	Salem State University
Greater Lawrence Technical School	Northern Essex Community College
Greater Lowell Technical High School	University of Massachusetts- Lowell
High School of Science & Technology (Springfield Public Schools)	Westfield State University
Hudson High School (Hudson Public Schools)	Worcester State University
Promise Career & College (Brockton)	Quincy College

Welcome New Designees

Secondary School Partner	Institution of Higher Education (IHE)
Mount Everett High School (Southern Berkshire Regional School District)	University of Massachusetts- Amherst
Randolph High School (Randolph School District)	Bridgewater State University
Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy (Springfield Public Schools)	Westfield State University
Taconic High School (Pittsfield Public Schools)	Berkshire Community College
Taunton High School (Taunton Public Schools)	University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth
Waltham High School (Waltham Public Schools)	Regis College
West Springfield High School (West Springfield Public Schools)	Westfield State University
Dracut High School (Dracut Public Schools)	University of Massachusetts- Lowell
Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High Schools	Middlesex Community College
Weymouth High School (Weymouth Public Schools)	Qunicy College

FY27 Theme

Early Starts. Endless Possibilities.



Every student deserves the opportunity to discover what is possible before they ever question whether it is attainable. Through Early College, students gain an early start on their academic, career, and life journeys, building confidence, earning college credit, exploring career pathways, and envisioning futures that may have once seemed out of reach.

Early Starts. Endless Possibilities. reflects our commitment to helping schools, colleges, and communities design transformational experiences that remove barriers and expand opportunities. Through collaborative coaching, strategic planning, and meaningful partnerships, we support teams in creating equitable pathways where students can begin their college and career journeys earlier, accelerate toward their goals, and unlock limitless potential.

As we work together throughout the Designation Planning Phase, we are not simply developing programs, we are building futures. Every planning session, coaching conversation, and partnership decision is centered on one goal: ensuring that more students have access to high-quality Early College experiences that prepare them for success in college, career, and life.

When students are given an early start, the possibilities become endless.

Reconnect to Our Purpose



Reconnect to Our Purpose

What is our collective why?

What is your why?

Student Success Stories

Other ways to connect to one
another in shared purpose?



FY27 Working Groups

Working group meetings will begin on **Nov. 4, 2026.**

This year's Working Groups are:

- Multilingual Learners
- Students with Disabilities
- Early College Advising

Applications for Leaders and Co-Leaders will open on **Friday, Sept. 18.**
(Stipends are provided for Leaders and Co-Leaders.)

Please look in your Friday Newsletter from P2C for the application information!

Recent Webinars

August 26, 2026 –

Data Webinar specific to 2018 Cohort Transitioning to Full Designation Status

Program Modification Webinar – slides and recording on [MA Early College Learning Hub](#)

If you need to be added to the MA Early College Learning Hub or have questions about accessing materials, contact

[Wenalyn Bell Glenn](#).

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due on **Wednesday, September 30**
Intended for programs designated in fall 2025 or earlier
Programs designated in 2018 exempted as they complete
transition survey
To access the Annual Report via Alchemer, click [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact [Renee Poisson](#).

Upcoming Data Trainings

Early College Data Reporting Trainings (Please register & attend one.)

- Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 9:00 – 10:00 AM – Register [HERE](#).
- Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 9:00 – 10:00 AM – Register [HERE](#).

Early College Data Reporting Support Office Hours

- Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM
- Wednesday, October 14, 2026, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM
- Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 12:30 – 1:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 21, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 9:00 – 10:00 AM

You can join any of the office hours by clicking [HERE](#).

(Registration not required.)

Questions? Contact [Renee Poisson](#).

Fiscal Announcements

FY26 and FY27 Summer Grantees ONLY:

FC 0460|FC460S EC Support, FC 0470|470S EC Capacity, 461S|461A Planning Grant and 461B Pre-Planning Grants

Important Deadlines

September 30th: All FY26 FERs are due in GEMs.

October 31st: Last opportunity to request reimbursement for FY27 Summer

Grants (460S, 470S, and 461S).

November 30th: FY27 Summer FERs are due in GEMs.

Fiscal Announcements

FY27 Early College Planning Grant FC 461

Upcoming Webinar: Thursday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Click [HERE](#) to join.

Thank you, Planning Grantees, for submitting your applications to GEMs. All applications are pending DESE Fiscal Approval. Applications should be fully approved in October.

Fiscal Announcements

FY27 Early College Support Grant FC 460

All applications are DESE fiscally approved. Please view the Grant Award Notice (GAN) for the start date.

The RFP is in the process of being updated with the following information:

- At the end of the fiscal year, if funding is unspent, unclaimed, or returned, that same dollar amount will be deducted from the FY28 allocations.
- Grantees are only allowed to PAC up to 25% of their total award to FY28 Summer. Example: If you were awarded \$120K, you can only PAC a maximum of \$30K.

Fiscal Announcements

Claiming Funds

Please remember to submit all reimbursements. Request reimbursements ONLY for the funds used. Do not submit reimbursements for any funds that are not yet used and/or that grantees do not plan to use.

Do not wait until the end of the grant cycle to request funds; this should be done regularly. By January 2027, no more than half of the full allocation should remain.

Fiscal Announcements

Additional Information

Amendments are generated by grantees, and Cashay cannot open amendments on the grantee's behalf. Please go to the application; at the top, select APPLICATION REVISION STARTED to begin the process.

Applications do not need to be amended if there is no significant change in program objectives, less than or equal to \$100 or 10% of the line (whichever is greater), and the change does not exceed \$10,000.

If applications are returned for edits, please review the comment section to see what is being requested. Do not let the application sit. Grantees will not be able to use the funding as desired until it is DESE fiscally approved.

Fiscal Announcements

Additional Information (cont.)

The contractual service line-item is only for expenses under \$25K. Expenses greater than \$25K should go under the MAJOR contractual service line. Applications will be returned for edits if items are classified incorrectly.

When contacting Cashay regarding issues or concerns regarding GEMS, please be as clear and descriptive as possible, and include the year and fund code. If grantees are receiving an error message, please take a screenshot so grantees can be effectively supported.

Grantees cannot allocate, use, or encumber funding until DESE fiscal approval is given. Check the GAN in GEMs to confirm the start date.

Fiscal Announcements

Additional Information (cont.)

Do not wait until the last minute or on the due date to complete tasks. If an issue occurs, depending on the issue, it may not allow enough time to troubleshoot. Grantees run the risk of not receiving an extension and could lose funding and/or lose out on funding opportunities.

Do not ignore emails; they are not an FYI and contain important information regarding deadlines and/or funding available.

If there are changes and/or concerns that affect your ability to spend all funding, please contact Cashay ASAP. Cashay is more than happy to provide recommendations and/or brainstorm on how the funding could be utilized. Programs will be penalized for not spending or returning funding. Also, if you wait until the last minute, grantees could take away another program's opportunity to use the funding.

Fiscal Announcements

If you have any issues or concerns, please email Cashay Grant-Woods at Cashay.c.grant-woods@mass.gov for support. Thank you for your patience and collaboration.

Happy Spending.



Resource Site



MA Early College

DESIGNATED EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS HOME

PROSPECTIVE EARLY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS HOME

About ▾

Designation Information ▾

MAECP Tools ▾

Data Dashboard ▾

Contact Us

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE RESOURCE SITE

Massachusetts Early College provides a structured program of study and supports that increases college success and career readiness while prioritizing students historically underserved in higher education.



<https://www.maeearlycollege.com/>

[Pathway2Careers](#), in partnership with the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools](#) and [Department of Higher Education](#), provides technical assistance, coaching, and resources for Massachusetts Early College designees,



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

Learning Hub



<https://p2c.instructure.com/courses/533>



Welcome to the MA Early College Learning Hub

Pathway2Careers, in partnership with the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) and [Department of Higher Education](#), provides technical assistance, coaching, and resources for

Upcoming Dates

September 17, 2026 –

- **10:00 a.m. – Data Training and Office Hours***
- **1:00 p.m. – FY27 Early College Planning Grant FC 461 Webinar***

September 30, 2026 –

- **5:00 p.m. – Annual Reports Due***
- **5:00 p.m. – All FY26 FERs Due***

*See earlier slides for additional details related to the dates above.

Contact Us

We're here to support you!

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Thank You