

Touch Point Tuesday



Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026

Welcome



Agenda

- FY 27 Planned Events
- Recent Webinars
- Announcements and Updates
 - Due Dates and Credit Tracker Update
 - Working Groups
- Introduction to RTI
 - Strategic Growth Plan
- Data Updates
 - Annual Reports
 - Upcoming Data Trainings and Support
- Fiscal Updates
- Resources

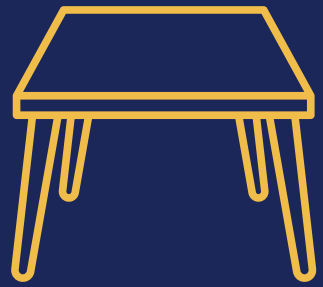


FY27 Early College
Theme

Events and Annoucements



FY27 Events



Commissioners' Table Talks

2 Table Talk
Fall: Nov. 20th WSU
Spring: Feb via Webinar

Topics:
State-wide growth plan
Data driven discussions



12 Credits by 12th Grade

Continue to hold the 12x12
celebration

Possible date & location:
Middlesex or UMass
April



Leadership Convening

Topic:
State-wide Growth Plan

Possible date & location:
Fitchburg State
May



Recruitment Events

3 Middle School
Recruitment Events

Possible date & location:
Springfield PS, Boston PS,
Throughout the year

Recent Webinars



If you were unable to attend the following webinars hosted on August 26, 2026:

- **Data Webinar: Transitioning to Full Designation Status**
Specific to the 2018 Cohort

- **Program Modification**

Pertains to all programs

The slides and recording can be found on the
[MA Early College Learning Hub](https://p2c.instructure.com/courses/53)



<https://p2c.instructure.com/courses/53>

Upcoming Due Dates and Annoucement

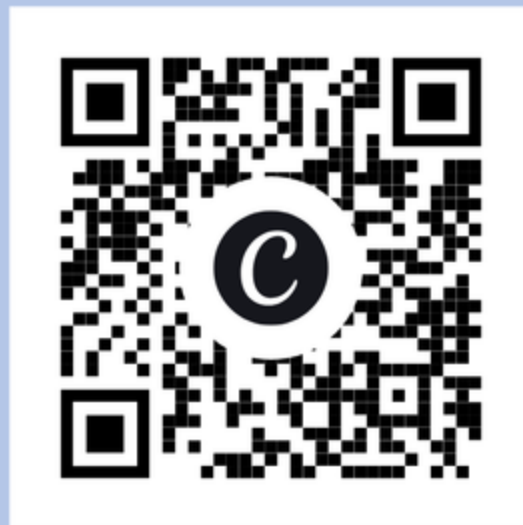
Transition Survey

(Pertains to Cohort 2018 ONLY)

Due: October 2, 2026

Program Modifications

Due: October 16, 2026



<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8736387/Early-College-Program-Modifications-Draft>

CREDIT TRACKERS



Credit Trackers will be sent out to programs in October.

Questions?

Contact [Renee Poisson](mailto:Renee.Poisson@mass.gov) | Renee.Poisson@mass.gov

Update: Launching Early College Working Groups

Working groups will kick off in November!

We are seeking Leaders and Fellows to help guide and support three Early College working groups:

Three Focus Areas

- Students with Disabilities in EC
- Early College Advising
- Multilingual Learners in EC

Stipends

- Fellows: \$700
- Leaders: \$1,200

Groups will meet one Wednesday a month and quarterly at TPT.

How to Apply:

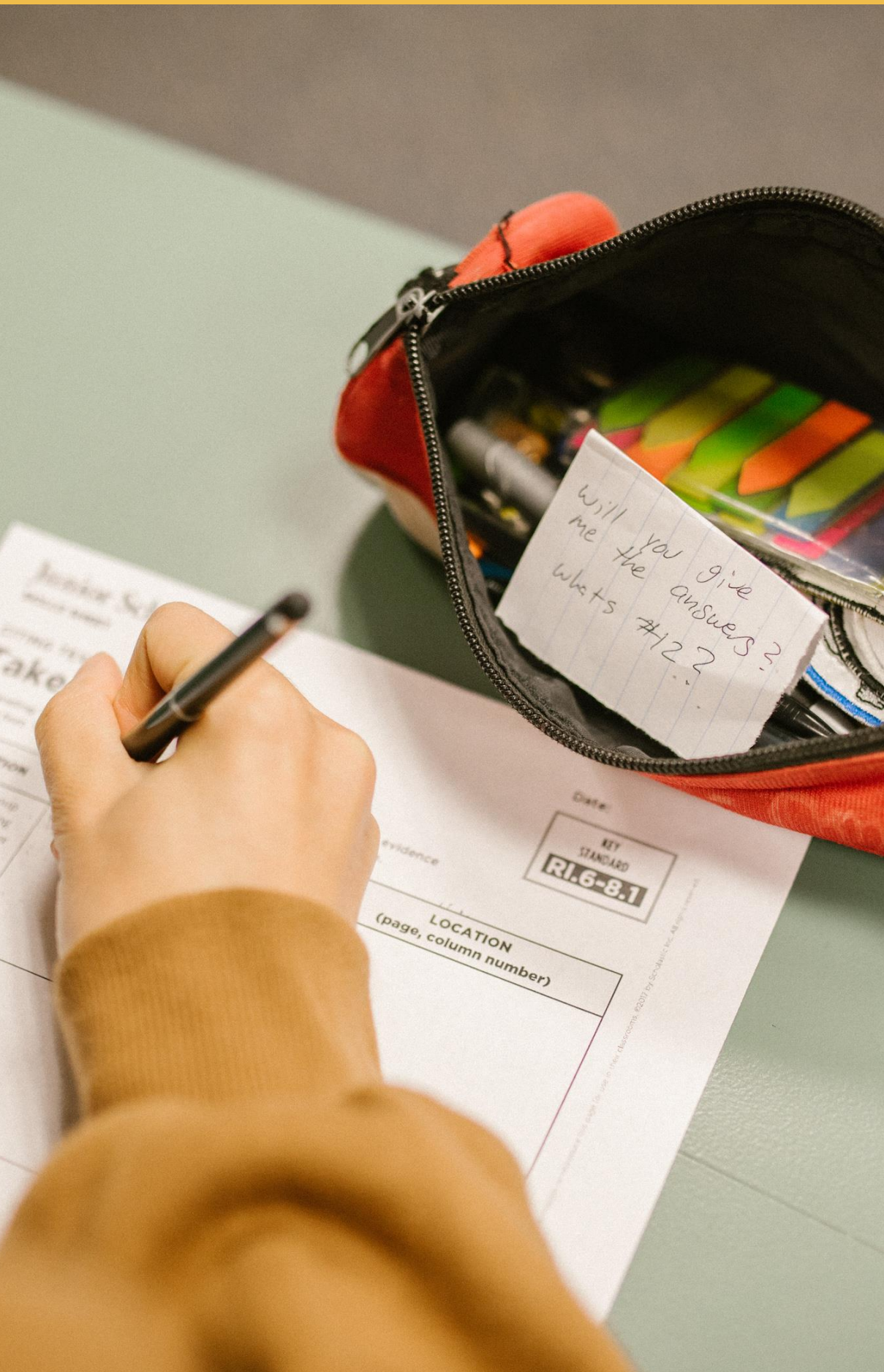
Applications will be available on the Resource Site on Sept. 18th

Questions?

Contact [Renee Poisson](mailto:Renee.Poisson@mass.gov) | Renee.Poisson@mass.gov



Other Relevant Announcements and Updates



DESE posted a grant that may be of interest to Early College Designated Schools.

Student Support and Wellbeing Systems (SSWS) Grant

The purpose of this grant is intended to support grantees in creating safe and supportive learning environments, in partnership with families, so every learner is known, valued, nourished, and has voice and agency.

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/9600-9605-9610/>



Please note

Districts may have received a survey from DESE on comprehensive assessments as part of Graduation Recommendations.

Introducing Research Triangle International

Partners in the Strategic Growth Plan

The logo for Research Triangle International (RTI) is displayed. It features a stylized blue graphic on the left, followed by the letters "RTI" in a large, blue, serif font. Below "RTI", the word "INTERNATIONAL" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font, with wide letter spacing.

RTI
INTERNATIONAL

EC Statewide Growth Plan to 100k

Timeline Phase

Phase One

The Path to 20,000 Students

Phase 1 Deliverables:

- Current state & gap analysis.
- Growth scenario to 20,000 students, incl. capacity, staffing & risks.
- Sustainable funding model for 20,000 students.
- Policy & regulatory recommendations
- Implementation blueprint, metrics & dashboard.

**Updates Presented at the
December ECJC meeting.**

Phase Two

The Path to 40,000 Students

Phase 2 Deliverables:

- Regional hub & partnership model, incl. designation process changes.
- Institutional operating models & readiness assessment.
- Expanded higher education capacity plan.
- Updated financial, cost & staffing models for 40,000 students.
- Governance & accountability framework.
- Updated policy recommendations
- Roadmap to 40,000 students.

**Updates Presented at the
March ECJC meeting.**

Final Phase

The Path to 100k Students

Final Growth Plan:

- Executive summary, vision, goals & statewide growth targets.
- Growth strategy & operating model.
- Funding strategy & policy recommendations.
- Implementation roadmap through 2036, incl. milestones, investments & risks.
- Performance measurement & governance framework.
- Research methodology & stakeholder engagement appendices.

**Updates Presented at the
June ECJC meeting.**

Data Updates



Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due on **Wednesday, September 30th**

- Intended for programs designated in fall 2025 or earlier.
- Programs designated in 2018 are exempt, as they complete transition survey.

To access the Annual Report via Alchemer, click [**HERE**](#).

Questions?

Contact [**Kristin Hunt**](mailto:Kristin.e.hunt@mass.gov) | Kristin.e.hunt@mass.gov



Upcoming Data Trainings

Early College Data Reporting Support Office Hours

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

You can join any of the office hours by clicking [HERE](#)
(Registration not required)

Early College Data Reporting Trainings (Please register)

- Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 9:00 - 10:00 AM (This is a repeat of the training done in September)

Register [HERE](#)



Questions?

Contact [Renee Poisson](#) | Renee.Poisson@mass.gov

Fiscal Updates

A photograph of a wooden desk with a grey fabric folder labeled 'Grants', an open notebook, and three small potted succulents.

Grants

FY26 and FY27 Summer Grantees ONLY

Important Deadlines



- **September 30th:** All FY26 FERs are due in GEMs for grants that ended on June 30th (460, 470, 461A and 461B).
- **October 31st:** Last opportunity to request reimbursement for FY27 summer grants that ended on Aug 31st (460S, 470S, and 461S).
- **November 30th:** FY27 Summer FERs are due in GEMs for grants that ended on Aug 31st (460S, 470S, and 461S).

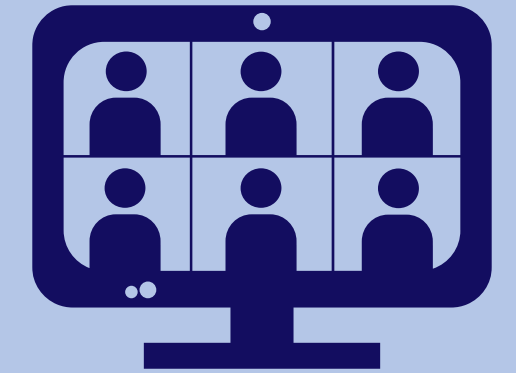
FY27 Early College Support Grant Webinar

Early College Support Grant Fund Code 460



Thursday, October 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Click **HERE** to join.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/jc/89981515317>

This webinar is a makeup session for those who missed the July session and will include more information about the RFP update.

RFP Update



The RFPs have been updated with the following information:

- **FY27 FC460 Support Grantees ONLY:** 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.
- **Both FY27 FC461 Planning and FC460 Support 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.*

For additional information, see the RFP: Use the QR codes or links:



www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0461/



www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2027/0460/

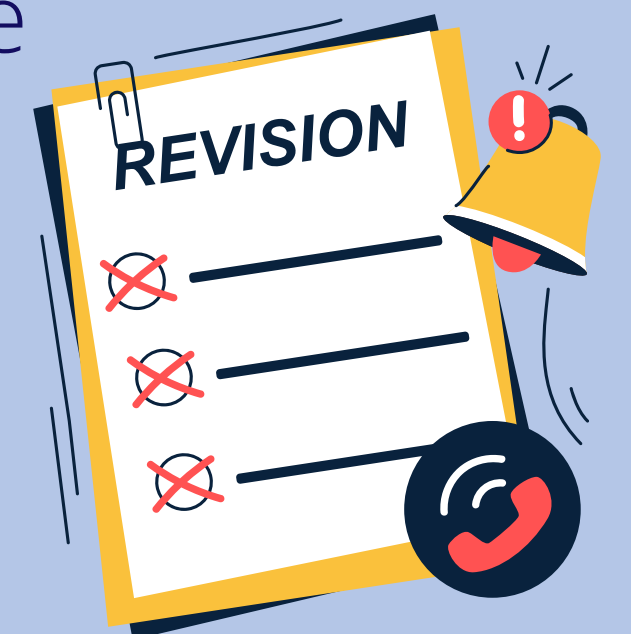
Claiming Funds/Requesting Reimbursements



- 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.

Amendments and Revisions

- Amendments are solely generated by grantees. 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 the 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. Grantees will not be able to use the funding as desired until it is DESE fiscally approved.
- The contractual service line-item is only for expenses under \$25K. Expenses greater than \$25K should go under the MAJOR contractual service line.



Fiscal Reminders

- 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.
- Do not wait until the last minute or on the due date to complete tasks.
- 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. 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.



Happy Spending!

Thank you for your patience and collaboration.



In need of support or have any questions and/or concerns?

Contact: [Cashay Grant-Woods](#) | Cashay.c.grant-woods@mass.gov



Resource Sites

Resource Site



Link to Resource Site:

www.maearlycollege.com

Learning Hub

MA Early College Learning Hub



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

The Early College Team



Aaron Altman | Director of Early College, DHE | AAltman@dhe.mass.edu

Phylitia Jamerson | Executive Director, DESE | Phylitia.Jamerson@mass.gov

Dr. Kristin Hunt | Sr. Director of Policy & Planning | Kristin.E.Hunt@mass.gov

Cashay Grant-Woods | Fiscal Manager | Cashay.C.Grant-Woods@mass.gov

Renee Poisson | Program Specialist | Renee.Poission@mass.gov

Michael LaGrone | Data and Research Analyst | Michael.LaGrone@mass.gov

Dr. Jamisa Williams | VP, School Services & Innovation, P2C | Jamisa.Williams@p2c.org

**We are here to support
you!**

Thank You

