

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

Statewide Early College Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

Early College Designation Criteria Survey Extended To

- January 24, 2020,
5pm

Part B Applications Due for Advancing Applicants

- February 14, 2020

2020-2021 Designated Programs Announced

- April 2020

ON BUILDING SCALE AND INCREASING EQUITABLE ACCESS

Welcome to our inaugural Massachusetts Early College Newsletter. A lot has happened since we saw many of you at our Fall convening. We had a lot of new applications for Designation submitted and several of these have been approved to move on to the final application stage. We recently released a grant opportunity to our 2018 Designees specifically aimed at expanding efforts to build scale and equitable access to their Early College programming. Our external evaluator, ICF, completed an initial report on some of our early programs called the Massachusetts Early College Pathway Initial Program Evaluation. Finally, we are in the final stages of securing a contract with a technical assistance provider who is going to work with us to prepare support resources for our programs. You will be hearing from us shortly with more details. Meanwhile, we always encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, challenges and successes. The Early College Team is here for you.

Kristin Hunt, Director of MA Early College Programs, 781 338-3110, Kristin.Hunt@doe.mass.edu
 Rebekah Barr, Coordinator of MA Early College Programs, 781 338-3195, Rebekah.Barr@doe.mass.edu
 Emily Meehan, LEE Fellow, 781 338-3952, Emily.Meehan@mass.gov
 Pierre Lucien, SDP Fellow, 781 338- 3130, Pierre.Lucien@doe.mass.edu





MA EC Snapshot

As of Fall 2020,
over 2,300
students across
the
Commonwealth
were enrolled in a
Designated Early
College program

There are currently **17 Designated Early College Partnerships** including **15 Institutions of Higher Education** and **34 High Schools**, with several new applications for designation. The momentum is building for sustainable funding and programming throughout the commonwealth.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Data Dashboards and Annual Reports

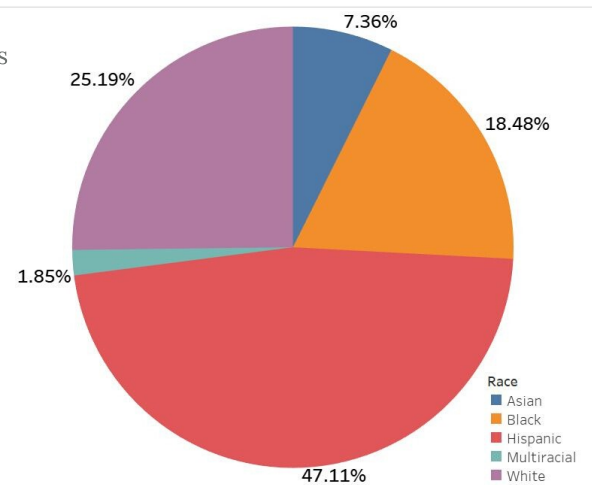
2020 will be the first year that we are able to provide data back to you in the form of data dashboards as well as request program data in the form of an annual report.

Data Dashboards: To help you better understand your progress towards fulfilling designation criteria, we are launching a series of data dashboards including, demographics, post-secondary course enrollment, and MassCore progression for the EC participants. Data dashboards are interactive web-based panels of graphs and tables that enable users to view indicators, or measures of interest, by school year, grade level, and other filters. In order to design these, the last few months entailed collaborating with stakeholders, namely K-12 and higher education representatives from designated programs, to devise useful indicators). Look for the first edition, coming soon.

Annual Report: After you have had a chance to see your data dashboards, you will be asked to compile and submit your Annual Report in late Spring! This report will allow the MA Early College team to gain a deeper understanding of your programming, and will allow you a chance to reflect on your work so far. You can expect the report to be due in late June.

Reaching Underserved Students:

Racial Distribution of ECP Participants
Fall 2019



REMINDER!

A survey regarding Designation Criteria was sent out last week. You still have time to complete the survey! You can access the survey [here](#). Reach out to emily.meehan@mass.gov with any questions!



Strategy Spotlight

Supporting Equitable Access for Students through Recruitment and Enrollment

Statewide designation is focused on alleviating barriers to undeserved students. With this in mind, we encourage programs to develop strategies to move the needle on equitable post-secondary opportunities for all students.

Grade 9 Programming

Focus on designing career, social-emotional, and academic programming to make Grade 9 a strong (pre-college) exploratory year.

Reaching the Community

Develop culturally competent recruitment strategies that meet the unique needs of your community.

Build Upon Other Resources

Consider aligning other college access initiatives such as Trio programs or local non profit programs.

From the Field

Observations from Designated Program visits

In late October 2019, the Early College team visited New Heights Charter School of Brockton and Massasoit Community College. NHCSB is unique among other MA designated Early College programs, because they aim to provide all NHCSB students the opportunity to earn the equivalent of an Associate's degree worth of college credits prior to graduation.

The EC team had the pleasure of discussing the successes and challenges of being a part of this program with several NHCSB students. Overwhelmingly, students felt that they could rise to the task of completing the rigorous college work on Massasoit's campus with all the supports provided to them within the program.

Students interviewed said they enjoyed being on the Massasoit campus (which included the privilege of being out of uniform!), and all of them said they looked forward to attending college after graduation. The EC team was impressed with the support provided to students from both partners including: college coursework prep in 8th grade, coordinated study halls on the NHCSB campus, and tutoring in the Massasoit library.

