

# MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

Statewide Early College Newsletter



Early College Students at the Early College Briefing Event

## EARLY COLLEGE BRIEFING

### IMPORTANT DATES & COVID-19 UPDATE

*Please note:  
Given the changing circumstances  
many of our educational partners are  
facing due to the coronavirus, dates  
may be amended or events held  
virtually.*

#### Early College Joint Committee Designation Review

- April 2020

#### EC Education Pathway Meeting

- To be held virtually, May 8, 2020

#### Request for Program Annual Reports

- Requested: May
- Due: June

### Designated Early College Programs in Spotlight at the Statehouse

On February 26, our team joined advocates for Early College from across the state at the Early College Briefing held in the state house. Event attendees included leaders from Worcester Public Schools, Bunker Hill Community College, MassInc, co-chairs of the Higher Education Committee, Massachusetts Senators, representatives from the State Street Foundation, Commissioner Riley, Commissioner Santiago, as well as local Early College students.

All of the speakers celebrated the value and proven success of Early College. Commissioner Santiago highlighted national research that emphasizes the promise of this initiative and asked that Massachusetts Early College efforts focus on best practices and increased scale in order to expand impact and equity. President Pam Eddinger of Bunker Hill Community College passionately shared that "Early College wipes away the labels that we have for students". To applause, she expressed that investing in Early College is "not a risk", but a worthy investment for our legislature.

Across all speakers, there was a common theme: Early College works, but requires significant funding. Chair of the Board of Higher Education, Chris Gabrieli, commended the legislature for their recent financial investment in K-12 education that will most certainly support Early College. However, he stated that in order for the initiative to be truly successful, sustainable funding *must* be made available to higher education as well.

As audience members of this event, the Massachusetts Early College staff was proud to witness a strong coalition of Designated Early College programs gathered together to advocate for sustainable state funding. Many who spoke shared the positive differences these programs have made in students' lives. A recent Madison Park graduate said: "Early College saved me time and money...I hope as many students get this opportunity as possible".

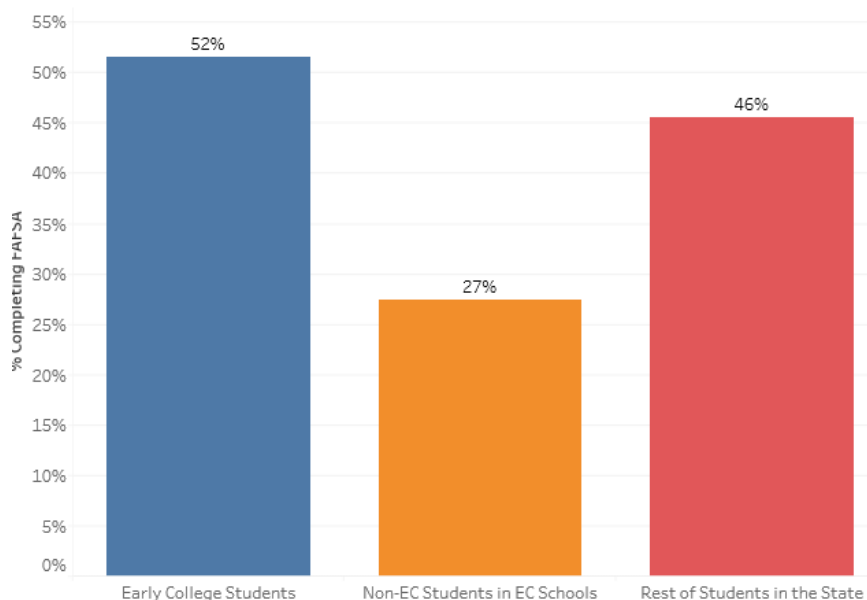


# Data Spotlight: Applying for College



## 12th Grade FAFSA Completion Rates

2019-20 Academic Year



Data shows that programs are doing a good job of assisting Early College 12th graders with FAFSA completion. Let's help our students reach 100% completion by graduation!

## MEASURING SUCCESS

We continue to work on a statewide level to bring together both DESE and DHE data to begin to provide quality information on Designated Early College program outcomes. To further this work Designated programs will be receiving both a Data Dashboard and a request to provide an annual report by late Spring.

### Course Inventory Forms - Thank you!

Thank you to the programs who have submitted Course Inventory Forms updated with Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 course-taking data! We greatly appreciate the effort put towards submitting these forms, as it gives our SDP Fellow, Pierre, the chance to begin data analysis.

### Annual Report

In late spring, Designated programs will receive a request to complete the inaugural Early College annual report. The report will consist of **three parts**: Review of Designation Criteria, Annual Outcomes, and Program Reflections. The 2019-2020 school year will be **Year 0** of your accountability cycle. The purpose of the annual report is to allow partnerships to reflect and share out successes and challenges of their Designated Early College programming. In addition, these reports will serve to ensure that programs are meeting the obligations of both the Designation and related state grant funding.



## EARLY COLLEGE EDUCATION PATHWAY MEETING

May 8, 2020 2-4pm

Several of our current and potential Designated Early College programs feature education pathways. We would like to offer an opportunity to bring these pathway partners together to share out best practices, successes and challenges involved in encouraging and supporting traditionally underserved students to become educators. Given that there is a particular synergy across the Commonwealth for expanding the racial diversity of the teaching workforce, the MA Early College team has invited multiple DESE and DHE staff to attend this meeting to share out on some of these important initiatives related to this topic. It is our hope that this initial meeting will provide a foundation for a larger Summit in the future.

This event will take place **virtually on May 8, 2020 from 2-4 pm**. If you are interested in participating, and particularly if your EC program has an Education Pathway, please reach out to [Emily.meehan@mass.gov](mailto:Emily.meehan@mass.gov) for more details.



## INTRODUCING OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER



We are thrilled to announce NS4Ed as our new technical assistance provider. Dr. Joseph Goins and his team have extensive experience working with college and career pathway programs across the nation. NS4ED is partnering with EDCO to assist with the logistics of convenings and other opportunities for in-person technical assistance. In addition, they are in the process of developing webinars, podcasts, and online resources for programs to access at any time. To learn more about Dr. Goins and his team, please visit: [www.ns4ed.com/](http://www.ns4ed.com/)

Welcome, Dr. Goins!

## LISTENING TO OUR PROGRAMS

### *Guiding Principles 1 & 2 Designation Criteria Survey*

Thank you to all of our programs who took the time to respond to our survey on the language, feasibility and implementation of Guiding Principles 1 and 2 Designation Criteria. As we continue to build on the vision of the Massachusetts Early College Designation, your feedback is invaluable to our work. Some highlights from the survey results include:

- The majority of programs indicated that the lack of sustainable funding continues to create challenges. These challenges include increasing enrollment, course and student support offerings, hiring sufficient staff, and more.
- Several participants noted that there needs to be clarity around the policy for initial student enrollment into Early College programming, especially as it relates to prior academic performance.
- For many criteria, participants noted that specific, concrete examples of expectations would make language clearer.

For additional results, please find a summary report here: <https://tinyurl.com/DesignationCriteriaSurvey2020>.



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