

# MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

## Statewide Early College Newsletter



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Early College Joint Committee Meeting

- June 11, 2020

#### Statewide Early College Conversation

- June 16 at 12pm
- Register to attend here:  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=10218>

#### Data Dashboards

- To be released week of June 15

#### Designation Criteria Survey

- Due June 26, 2020

To learn more about any of the above events, please contact  
Rebekah.Barr@mass.gov

### EARLY COLLEGE BRIEFING

#### Remote Learning During COVID-19

The world today looks significantly different than the one we inhabited just months ago. Schools have been closed and families have been asked to stay home for their safety. Some have been able to comply, isolating themselves for several weeks, while others have needed to continue working under stressful circumstances. Students and educators have had to adjust to remote learning and some of our students have had to take over as childcare providers and wage earners for their families. Furthermore, we know that the health and economic tolls of the pandemic have disproportionately impacted our most vulnerable students. As the state slowly reopens, we know it will take a long time for our school communities to recover and adjust to a "new normal."

The disruption of the COVID crisis is compounded by the reactions of many to the brutal images of racial injustice which have dominated our headlines lately. Many in our school communities are angry and frustrated that these acts of violence against black and brown people continue to take place. Students, families, and educators, are emotionally exhausted and worried about the present, but determined to work on bettering our collective future despite the uncertainty that still lies ahead.

Despite the startling aspects of our current reality, we have seen resiliency, resourcefulness, and comradeship in our communities. And one thing has become clear for our students: their world is being re-envisioned in ways that a few months ago we could not have imagined. The data we recently collected from you suggests that our designated program partners collaborated quickly and efficiently when the state began shutting down in order to continue supporting the majority of Early College courses for their students this spring. Even in the face of uncertainty, our community of practice re-committed to providing college courses and vital support to our traditionally underserved youth. Our inboxes have been inundated with stories of hope and courage demonstrating that your students, with your support, rose to the challenges presented to them. They have proven that they are resilient and ready for rigorous instruction, whether on a college campus or online platform or through some mode in between.

With this in mind, our staff is working hard to provide whatever support and guidance we can during this time. On June 11, the Early College Joint Committee is meeting to discuss strategies to provide support to Designated programs for the upcoming year. Starting June 16, we will start hosting statewide bi-weekly meetings, alongside our technical assistance team, to provide communication out and give programs opportunities to connect and brainstorm strategies for approaching next year. At the first meeting, we will be unveiling our new Early College online resource site and discussing the Data Dashboard workbooks programs will be receiving that same week. We are also putting together resources on anti-racism practices that programs can implement within their programs. We hope you can all join us! Please know that we stand here ready to support you and your students as you re-envision your programs this Fall and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hunt, Director of Early College Programs

MassEarlyCollege@doe.mass.edu



## Technical Assistance Opportunities



### Statewide Early College Conversation

Join us **June 16th at 12pm** for a virtual convening of the MA EC Community led by the EC team and technical assistance provider, NS4ed. We will be providing statewide updates, unveiling our new online resource site, and taking questions on the newly released workbooks of program Data Dashboards. Register [here](#).

After June 16, we will continue to host bi-Weekly EC check-ins. These virtual meetings will provide an open forum to discuss topics of importance.

### Early College Leadership Series

Beginning **June 23** our TA provider will be hosting virtual seminars focusing on best practices for implementing the Guiding Principles. The goal: to develop a professional learning community where participants support and learn from one another. More information and registration can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact:  
Kristin.E.Hunt@mass.gov and JGoins@Ns4ed.com

## Measuring Success

### Workbook on Program Data Dashboards and Annual Report Update

Our Data Specialist, Pierre, has been preparing data and designing dashboards to be shared out in the upcoming workbooks of **Data Dashboards**. Support to create these dashboards was provided by the Smith Family Foundation. The initial version of these dashboard workbooks, to be shared out the week of June 15, represent a starting point. We look forward to hearing your feedback and further developing these important resources!

K-12 partners will receive their workbooks via a secure file transfer from DESE to their district's drop box and can then share those dashboards with their Higher Ed partners. Our plan going forward is to create a shared platform for future iterations. Be on the look out for more information from Pierre!

Shortly after receiving your workbooks, programs will have a chance to reflect on this data. Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, we have modified the **Annual Report** we had planned on disseminating to the field this Summer. However, we are still planning to provide an opportunity for you to reflect in the near future.

## Designation Criteria Survey

### Guiding Principles 3 - 5

Thank you for recently completing the survey on Guiding Principles 1 & 2 of the Early College Designation Criteria. We are currently in the process of revising the language of the Designation Criteria based on the feedback provided. In order to include your input regarding Guiding Principles 3-5, the survey link on these principles is now available.

The survey can be accessed here:

➔ <https://tinyurl.com/ECSurvey3-5>

We ask that it is completed by: **June 26, 2020.**



**1. Equitable Access**  
targeting underrepresented students in higher education



**4. Connections to Career**  
through workplace and experiential learning experiences



**2. Academic Pathways**  
that are well integrated and aligned with college and career



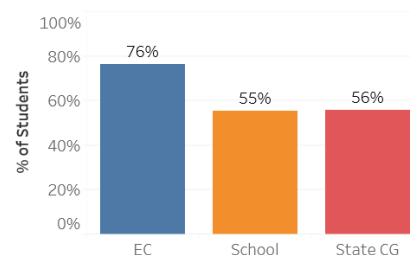
**5. High-Quality & Deep Partnerships**  
between high schools and colleges



**3. Robust Student Support**  
in both academics and advising

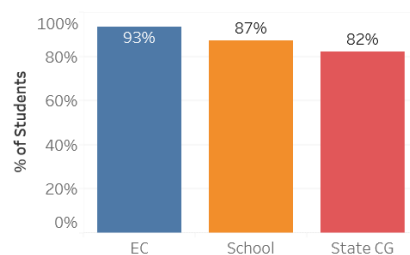
## College Enrollment of EC Students

### Enrolled Within 6 Months



76% of the 2019 MA EC cohort of students enrolled as college students within 6 months of high school graduation. Of these students, 93% enrolled in-state at public and private institutions.

### Enrolled In-State



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

**"I've been exceedingly impressed by our instructors, by our students, by QCC** and by the guidance offered by the state as we've all tried to navigate these uncharted and ever-changing waters. So many questions arose as schools and campuses began to close, but answers weren't far behind." **-Marlborough High School and Quinsigamond Community College**

"Along with the Google Classroom Lab assignments... **teachers provided individual and group tutoring sessions via Zoom to support scholars as well as weekly office hours.** Most scholars were very receptive to the on-line format despite the challenges with technology and uncertainty with moving forward in the semester. **Scholars were very active in advocating for themselves with faculty as well as expressing concerns to their HS teachers.** In addition to the resources afforded to them by NHCS, our scholars had access to Massasoit's Academic Resource Center for individual e-tutoring and writing assistance." **-New Heights Charter School and Massasoit Community College**

"Some of the progress/highlights include; LHS faculty teaching concurrent MCC courses quickly aligned communication and policy around college courses with MCC communications to students. MCC extended spring break by one week to give faculty an opportunity to move content to Blackboard and online modalities (email, ZOOM, etc.) and then resumed course work. **LHS teachers are fully included in MCC faculty correspondence from the Provost, etc. and were able to respond accordingly to meet the needs of students.** All **LHS faculty have MCC faculty mentors** to troubleshoot, work on curriculum alignment, etc." **-Lowell High School and Middlesex Community College**

"All of our Early College classes have continued to run despite school closures and remote learning. A number of students had to withdraw due to the challenging circumstances, but **faculty at both the high school and college provided unwavering support and patience to help encourage students to complete.** We're so proud of the students that stuck with it and will earn credit this spring." **-Holyoke Community College**

## Chelsea: An Example of Perseverance



In addition to highlighting the successes achieved by the Early College field, we also wanted to acknowledge the many challenges that our communities continue to face. The city of Chelsea is one example of a community that has been so upended these past few months, particularly within the city's Latino population. According to the Boston Globe, "With over 40,000 residents, 66 percent of them Latino, Chelsea has by far the highest incidence rate of COVID-19 cases in the state. Many factors in Chelsea have factored into the high rate: large numbers of essential workers, families living in close quarters, a heavy reliance on public transportation, and large numbers of immigrants who are less likely to have access to services. Health issues related to COVID-19 have exacerbated economic conditions as well. Illness or taking care of loved ones have caused some to lose their jobs and others must work despite being worried about putting family members at risk.

Much of the population has had to rely on food and rent assistance as they have struggled to make ends meet. During this challenging time, students, their families and their educators have had to continue with their school year remotely. The Chelsea Early College program is one example of how this city has persevered. Close to 75% of over 230 Early College participants were able to complete their college coursework this semester. This statistic speaks to the students' determination, families' support, and the district's commitment to students' futures, despite the uncertainty and challenges of the present. This commitment is an exemplar to us all. We continue to hold this community, and other communities facing related circumstances, in our thoughts.

The Early College Team

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

