

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

Statewide Early College Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

CCTE Summer Series

- **July 29 & 30, 2020**
- Learn more and register [here.](#)

Program Reflections (in lieu of Annual Report)

- **due August 15, 2020**
- Access the Survey Gizmo link [here.](#)

Early College Fall Enrollment Numbers and Assurances Deadline Extended !!

- **due August 31, 2020**
- Access the Survey Gizmo link [here.](#)

Looking Ahead to the Upcoming Year

To the Early College Community,

This year is unprecedented and will have a large impact on the development of the Early College initiative in Massachusetts. While Early College programs will undoubtedly face many challenges due to the ongoing pandemic, they still have some promising practices in place. For example, our programs have the advantage of higher education partners who have been honing remote learning strategies for several years. Recently the Early College Joint Committee made the decision to halt new Designations this year and redirect state funds to sustaining current programs. They also committed to getting this money out to programs in as timely a manner as possible so program partners could continue to provide college courses to as many students as possible. Our technical assistance provider, NS4Ed, has created virtual spaces for our programs to continue to develop a community of practice, as well as have their questions answered. And finally, our students were able to achieve remarkable outcomes last spring, even during huge shifts in how courses were being delivered. This is a testament to the students, their families, and the program staff and faculty. It illustrates the commitment school districts and colleges have made to this work. This work was further evidenced by the initial outcome data of the 2019 Early College graduates- the first class of students who participated in Early College the first year of Designation. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and we look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hunt, Director of Massachusetts Early College Programs



Ongoing Technical Assistance

Bi-weekly EC Statewide Check-Ins

Join us this summer for virtual convenings of the MA EC Community led by the EC team and technical assistance provider, NS4ed. We will provide statewide updates, share new developments on the online resource site, and take questions. Registration required. Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 28, 9am**. Register [here](#).

Early College Leadership Series

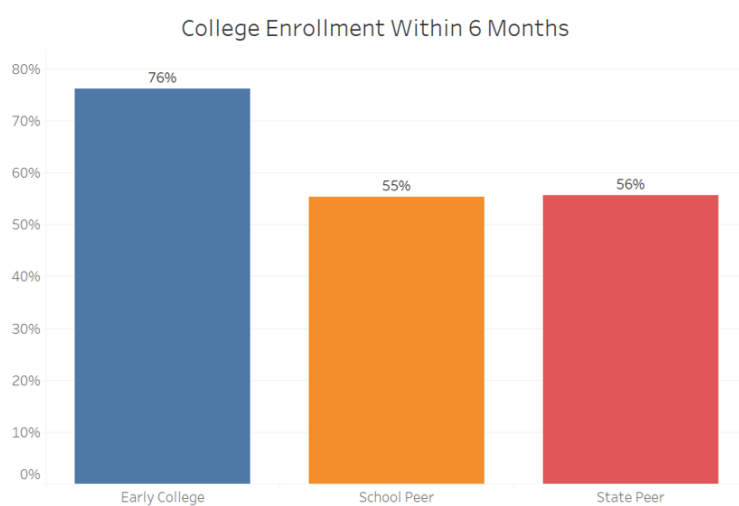
Continuing **August 1st, 9am**, NS4ED is hosting virtual seminars focused on best practices for implementing the Guiding Principles. The goal is to develop a professional learning community where participants support and learn from one another. More information and registration can be found [here](#).

For more information contact: Joseph Goins
JGoins@Ns4ed.com

Early College Outcomes

The most exciting initial outcomes from the first graduating class of Designated Early College (2019) is the rate at which they immediately enrolled in college. This indicates that the students, and programs, hard-work is achieving the goal of getting students to complete the transition from high school to postsecondary institutions.

EC grads attend college at a 20 percentage point higher rate:



Source: National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

Update on Workbook of EC Program Data Dashboards

By this point the K-12 partners of Designated programs should have received a workbook of Early College Data Dashboards. We hope that you have been able to access them and share the results with your higher education partner. We now ask that the K-12 partners, and any higher education partners who have seen the tool, please complete the Early College Dashboards Survey, available [here](#). This will help Pierre understand how to improve the tool so that it is most helpful for your program. Please note if your district has not yet accessed the workbooks: they can be found in the Office of Planning and Research folder in your secure district drop box. In the drop box is also a copy of a Dashboard Indicator Guidance Document which should be opened first. This document includes instructions for downloading the free software needed to view and interact with the dashboards, and explanations of the dashboards' content. If you have any questions about accessing or using your dashboards, please contact pierre.lucien@mass.gov

In Lieu of the Annual Report....

This year that we had planned on implementing an annual report to supplement the statewide Early College data collections. However, given the challenges of the current pandemic, we have altered this process. In lieu of an annual report, we are asking for Designated Early College programs to answer some general reflective questions related to each of the five guiding principles. To answer the questions, It will be helpful for programs to review their workbooks on data dashboards, and other programmatic data they may have collected over the course of the year. We also provide space to discuss upcoming goals and challenges of the upcoming school year. These reflections will not be used to formally evaluate programs but rather to ensure we can best support your program's continued development, provide appropriate technical assistance, and give programs a sense of what to expect from the annual report process in future years.

Program Reflections are due **August 15, 2020**, but we know that programs have a lot on their plate this summer and are happy to grant extensions as needed. We estimate that this survey will take an hour to complete. Please access the Survey Gizmo link here:

<https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5633646/Early-College-2020-Reflections-Goals>



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

The Lowell High School and Middlesex Community College Partnership

This past year, the Designated Early College Lowell program officially launched between Lowell Public Schools Lowell High School (LHS), Middlesex Community College (MCC), and Project Learn. Even more impressively, the newly Designated program was able to successfully transition their student to the remote learning model required due to COVID-19. All partners worked together to provide students with the supports they needed to be successful in remote learning dual enrollment courses at the high school. These supports included:

- * MCC Faculty mentors to support LHS DE instructors with the switch to remote learning
- * Emails to students that provided information about student support services and available resources
- * Virtual opportunities for students to stay connected and engaged with the Early College team and the MCC admissions office

What Staff are Saying:

"With the pandemic we tried to anticipate the challenges that we were going to have to face. Fortunately with the partnership that Early College Lowell has created between Lowell High School and Middlesex Community College, we were able to provide the students with an effective remote learning experience. We were also able to reach more families than ever before. With it being remote, it was easier for most families to join us for info sessions."

What Students are Saying:

"I got a little taste of what college was going to be like.... there is more sense of independence, for sure."

"EC is for anyone who is willing to take the opportunity.. It helps"

"It definitely motivated me.. Some students get to junior and senior year and they may get senioritis or don't know what they want to do. But when you take these classes for college credits it forces you to think about what you want to do next."

A collaborative effort will continue to ensure students have every support or resource they need to be successful through the Early College Lowell program.



Early College Resource Site

Available Now

NS4ed, in partnership with the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Schools and Department of Higher Education, is providing technical assistance and resources for Massachusetts Early College designees, applicants, and prospective candidates. You will find event information and registration, application process and designation criteria, the early college toolkit, a community discussion forum, and many other supportive resources for educators, parents, and students on our resource site available [here](#). **Please note that the following password is needed to access the online resource page: maecp**

On the resource site, we have recently developed a new section to highlight resources to support remote learning. Many of these resources were developed directly by teachers on the ground as they transitioned from traditional classrooms to virtual learning environments and/or project-based learning. Higher education faculty, who have incorporated online, hybrid, and project based learning modes for many years, also have shared best practices. Click [here](#) to access a variety of these resources. We hope that they may prove helpful as you continue to develop Fall plans.



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

