

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

Statewide Early College Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

Early College Bi-weekly

Statewide Check-in

Every other Tuesday morning, 9am-10am

- **October 13 - December 8**
- Register [here](#)

MA Early College Programs

Virtual Convening

- **October 27, 2020, 8:30am-3:45pm**
- View sessions and register [here](#)

December ECJC Meeting

- **December 7, 2020, 3:00pm-5:00pm (virtual)**
- To receive the link to attend, please email Rebekah.Barr@mass.gov

Reinvisioning Our Community This Fall

As we enter this Fall semester, I can't help but be encouraged by the commitment demonstrated by Designated Early College program staff across the Commonwealth. Despite being an unprecedented Fall that has tested educators, parents and students alike, programs still reported increases in their student and course enrollments. In this time of so much uncertainty, our partners are actually broadening Early College opportunities to students. We appreciate the regular communication we have had with so many of you through our bi-weekly check-ins, the summer leadership series, email communication, grant RFPs, and program reflections. The work continues and innovations and adaptations abound as you come up with new ways to support students through remote learning and health protocols.

In a time where many students are feeling deep uncertainty as to whether college is an attainable goal, Early College is more needed than ever. It is imperative that our statewide community come together to lead the way in supporting our students in preparing for their futures. The initial outcomes of the first year of Early College graduates is compelling evidence that these programs are making a difference. As more fields and careers evolve into new ways of doing business in virtual space, these current Early College participants will continue to both build their college transcripts while they hone in on the skills that will be needed to participate in the future work force. We look forward to continuing to support your efforts, build our community of practice, and provide both the data and tools needed to reflect on program effectiveness.

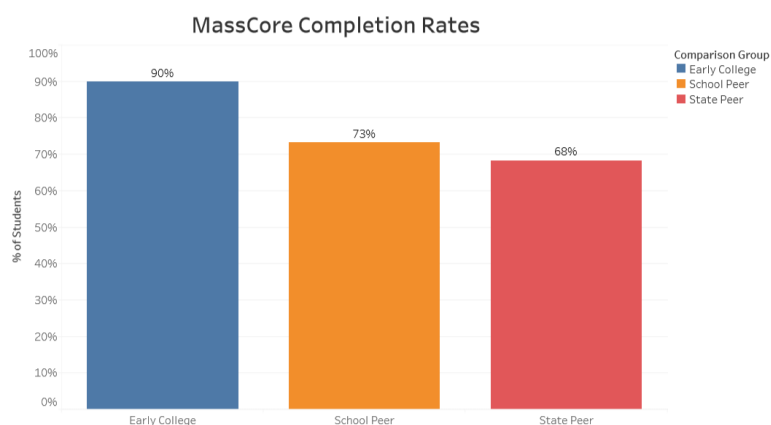
On October 27, we will be hosting a statewide Early College Virtual convening. We hope you can join us for the day and take part in some of the virtual sessions that will be offered. More information on the sessions being offered can be found later in this newsletter. We are also planning an opportunity to hear from Early College students through a video project- more details will be shared at the convening.

Be Well,

Kristin Hunt, Director of Massachusetts Early College Programs

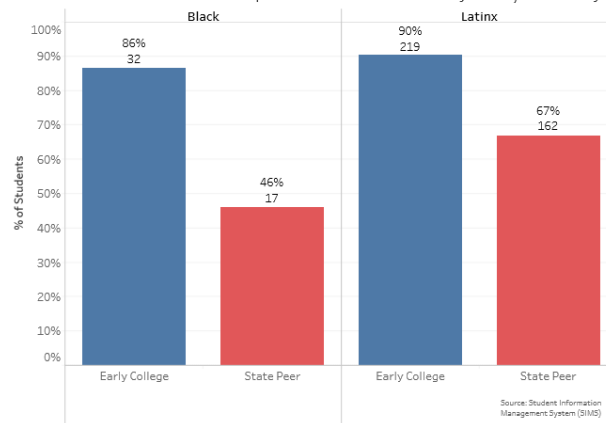
Spotlight from Early College Outcomes

MassCore is a program of study that aligns with post-secondary and workforce expectations, therefore completion of MassCore indicates college and career readiness. Reported averages for EC students in 2019 are not masking inequity, on the contrary, when disaggregated by race, the positive differences grow for Black and Latinx students.



Black and Latinx EC students complete MassCore at Higher Rates:

12th Grade MassCore Completion Rates in 2019 by Race/Ethnicity



Highlights of Recent Events Impacting MA Early College Programs

- The Governor released a press release announcing the six newly Designated programs, found [here](#).
- SDP Fellow Pierre Lucien presented initial MA Early College program outcomes to the Massachusetts Business Alliance on Education. The recording of the presentation and event can be found [here](#).
- Massachusetts Early College was featured in an article in Inside Higher Ed, found [here](#).
- A Fall Early College course enrollment collection was completed at the end of August. These numbers are being used to allocate Fall tuition credits to our IHE partners. In addition, K-12 districts completed RFPs to receive targeted non-competitive grants ranging from 27,500 to 40,000 based on number of programs within a district. Several IHEs also received CDEP grants which may also be used to support Early College work.
- On September 30, the Early College Joint Committee virtually convened and reiterated their commitment to supporting the Early College initiative.

MA Early College Programs Virtual Convening

Register Now for October 27, 2020

In lieu of an in-person Early College statewide conference, the Early College staff, in partnership with NS4Ed will be hosting an online convening October 27, 2020. The welcoming session will begin at 8:30am and the final sessions will end at 3:45pm. There will be individual links provided for each session. We highly encourage all attendees to register for the welcoming session which will feature Secretary of Education, James Peyser, as well as the 1pm session featuring a panel comprised of program leaders. Note: Keith Matheeny's [session on social and emotional learning](#) is a repeat of a well attended webinar for those who missed it. **All session descriptions, as well as the registration links, can be found [here](#). The password to enter the page is: MAECP.**

The Fall convening will serve as a launch for several professional learning communities, including one on Vocational Schools and Early College, and another centered on Serving ELL students through Early College. In addition, we plan to host a Spring 2021 statewide convening to revisit many of these session topics.

For more information regarding the Fall Convening, or if you have any questions/concerns, please contact Rebekah.Barr@mass.gov and JGoins@ns4ed.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Trends and Summary of Reflections from the Submitted Spring Program Reflections

This past summer, Designated Early College programs submitted program reflections in which they reviewed the past 2019-2020 school year. Overall, several themes emerged from these reflections. These include:

- Incorporation of wrap around supports provided to EC students, which included: campus visits, technology for students, Zoom tutoring and mentoring sessions, and “FAFSA night” with guest speakers
- Reporting by some programs of lower engagement with online course taking
- Increased enrollment trends for Fall 2020 despite (or even due to) uncertainty due to COVID...Possibly due to scheduling opportunities with virtual course taking
- Movement towards multiple-measures of readiness for college course taking
- Underrepresentation of male students in some EC programs

My Career and Academic Plan Professional Development Series

Registration is now open for My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) Professional Development Series. The three-workshop series is designed for small teams of four high school staff led by counselors and including teachers and administrators.

Sessions are scheduled to be held virtually on November 5, 2021, January 7, 2021, and February 4, 2021. To register your team, click [here](#). For more information, contact Lisa Harney at Lisa.M.Harney@mass.gov

Goodbye to the 2019-2020 LEE Fellow, Emily Meehan Hello to the 2020-2021 LEE Fellow, Yaw Asante-Bio

In August of this past year, the Early College team said good bye to Emily Meehan, the 2019-2020 Early College LEE Fellow. Emily was a great asset to our team during her time with us and we are pleased to report she has transitioned to a full time role in the Data Office at DESE. Best wishes Emily in your new role!



Yaw Asante-Bio is the 2020-2021 Lee Fellow. He is an experienced educator with a demonstrated history of working in urban education & education management. He is a strong advocate for educational equity and is an emerging policy professional with a Master of Science in Education from Johns Hopkins University. After receiving his B.A in Political Science from the College of the Holy Cross, Yaw joined Teach for America, in Miami-Dade where he taught Math & Science (grades 3-5), as well as creating ties to the broader Miami-Dade community working with education adjacent/advocacy organizations like the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. In the summer of 2019, he worked with ProjectLearn, a non-profit advocacy organization in Lowell, Mass., as the ArtUp fellow where he was involved in completing beautification projects in the city. In doing this work, he hopes to redefine how access to opportunities can be presented to all students and their families. Welcome Yaw!

