

# MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

Statewide Early College Newsletter



## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

### Early College Fall Credit and Enrollment Trackers

- July 30, 2021\* (contact us if missed deadline)

### Annual Reports

- September 30, 2021

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Early College Joint Committee Meeting**
- September 15, 2021
- Access the meeting here:  
<https://zoom.us/j/96882020784?pwd=TEppUk9TM0tXcjFFdlZuZ0pVNm x6Zz09>
- Passcode: 015803

### Meet and Greet for New EC Programs

- Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 3pm

### Early College Student Convening

- Tuesday, September 28, 2021

### Early College Fall Convening

- Tuesday, October 12, 2021

MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Higher Education

## Preparing for Fall 2021

Happy Summer to You All-

I hope you have been able to enjoy a respite during these summer months and are reinvigorated for Fall. This past year certainly was one like no other! Looking ahead, we are so excited to announce that for the first time, we will be virtually hosting an **Early College Student Leadership Convening**. We very much hope you will think about ways to support your Early College students to participate. You can read more about our plans in the attached flyer.

This upcoming year signifies a new era for the MA Early College programs, as the legislature recently doubled the Early College line. This increase in funds is reflective of growing momentum and interest in Massachusetts Early College as a mechanism for creating opportunities in students' trajectories, particularly students who may have felt that college was not a possibility for them. Earlier in June, I travelled to Worcester to hear the Governor, Lt. Governor, and other local education leaders speak to a panel of EC Worcester students about their accomplishments. The students were impressive, and clearly had benefitted from their Early College experience, which Governor Baker often refers to as "kicking the tires on college".

Given the increased attention and funding, one theme for us in this upcoming year will be accountability. How can we clearly account for Early College participants and evaluate program outcomes to ensure we are reaching more students, and they are succeeding in their transition to and through postsecondary opportunities? As we work on refining the statewide accountability and evaluative processes, we continue to invite you to provide feedback and ask questions, especially during our bi-weekly check ins and technical webinars.

Be well and be safe,

Kristin Hunt, Director of Massachusetts Early College Programs along with the Early College Staff:

Rebekah Barr, Early College Program Specialist

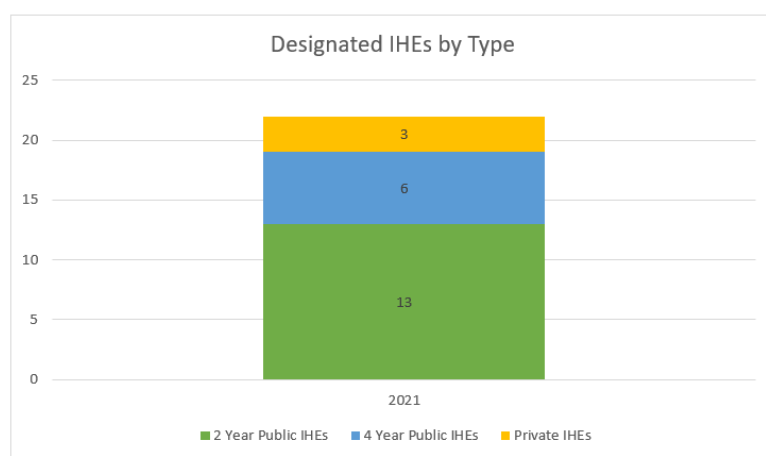
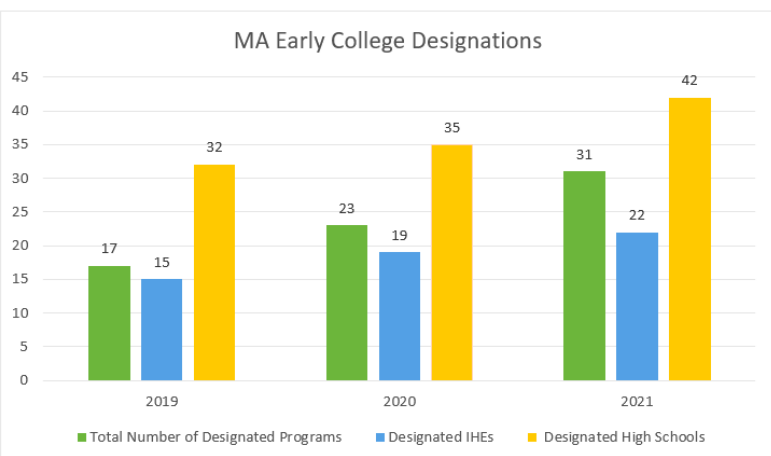
Pierre Lucien, SDP Fellow

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## Early College By The Numbers

In response to Covid, this summer we created an opportunity for Early College students to be funded to take up to two courses. Many programs were able to take advantage of this offer and support their students in pursuing courses, particularly in light that some students may not have been able to pursue their intended credits during this past school year. In total, **342 students were able to take advantage of this opportunity**. Altogether, they enrolled in courses equaling **1290 credits**.



Across the state, we now have **31 Designated partnerships across 42 high schools and 22 higher education partners**. Additionally, from Fall 2020 to this Fall 2021, we are expecting the number of students in our **statewide program to grow by 150%, from 2,800 students to 4,500** based on projections.

### Early College Annual Report due September 30, 2021

This is a reminder that programs should be working on their Early College annual reports. These reports offer Designated Early College Programs a chance to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of their programs over the past year, as well as how their current program design aligns to the five Guiding Principles and the corresponding Designation Criteria.

For reporting purposes, each K-12 partner is asked to complete an annual report with their higher education partner. For high school partners with 2 distinct Designations (and therefore two higher education partners), please complete two distinct Annual Reports. For K-12 partners with one Designation in which there are two college partners, one annual report will suffice. <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6398238/Early-College-Annual-Report-2020-2021>

### Early College Funding Updates

**The EC Program Fall Credit Trackers** for current programs were **due July 30th** (newly approved programs' are **due August 13th**). If your program is late in submitting, please get in touch with us ASAP. These submitted numbers are used to determine initial tuition payments to the higher education partners as well as reconcile submitted Spring credit numbers and payment. We will confirm these numbers after the Add/Drop period this Fall to prepare disbursements. This year, we will be converting our process to pulling from the statewide SCS (Student Course Schedules) database to which all K-12 districts report student courses. We will be in close contact with programs during this process to ensure that they are receiving the tuition reimbursements that they are anticipating.

We will be announcing additional grant opportunities to support Early College in the upcoming weeks. Programs should be thinking critically of how they may scale their programs in the upcoming year.

# MAECP August Campaign to "Bridge the Gap"

**This August, join us in thinking of innovative ways on how to bridge recent Early College high school graduates to ensure they show up for College this Fall.**



As too many of us know, despite student, family, and staff's best intentions, many recent high school graduates planning to go immediately to college never arrive in August. This year, given the challenges of Covid, there is a real possibility that this phenomenon, often referred to as "summer melt", will impact an even larger percentage of students, particularly those students most often already underrepresented in higher education.

**Check out our resource site for more information and resources!**

## What is "Summer Melt"?

"Summer Melt" refers to prospective college students' motivation to attend college "melting" away during the summer between the end of high school and beginning of college. This phenomenon is especially prevalent in low-income minority communities, where students who qualify for college and in some cases even register for classes ultimately end up not attending college because they lack resources, support, guidance, and encouragement. *(definition taken from Wikipedia)*

## Ideas to "Bridge the Gap"

1. Set up a phone tree among staff to **call recent EC grads and share messages of support** for their upcoming college transition
2. Create, or encourage a former student to, create an **EC alumni Facebook or Instagram page** to keep peers connected as they start college journey
3. **Hold an EC orientation or welcome** for students from partner high schools at the partner college
4. **Host a last minute "Q&A" for EC families** on the FA packages they received



## Send a shout out to your EC Grads!

Send a note of encouragement to your EC grads as they start college. Together, we can **bridge the gap** and inspire our students.

**LEARN MORE**

# New Early College Programs

At the June ECJC meeting, the following programs were approved for Provisional Designation:

- Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology and Mt. Wachusett Community College
- High School of Commerce and Springfield Technical Community College
- North Quincy High School and Quincy College
- Quincy High School and Quincy College
- Waltham High School and Framingham State College/Massachusetts Bay Community College

Including the three programs approved in February 2021, 8 new programs joined the EC community in 2021. **Please join us virtually for a Meet and Greet Open House on September 21, 3pm !**

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8215583551>

## For EC Designation Applicants

**Early College Office Hours:** Join us to get questions answered as you pursue the development of your application.

Every Wednesday this summer from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

- Link to Sign Up: <https://calendly.com/maearlycollege/early-college-designation-office-hours>

**NS4ED Technical Assistance Hours:** Trouble shoot, connect with resources including national best practices, and learn from other programs

Every Thursday from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

- Link to Join: <https://zoom.us/j/92568021033pwd=L2Mra1I0WGVRNURwME1qd0N3U2d1UT09>



*New Heights Charter School's graduation, May 2021*

*NHSCSB graduates earned at least 12 credits and 51% earned an Associate's degree by the time of their high school graduation.*



## Save the Date!

### Early College Virtual Student Convening – September 28, 2021

We are so pleased to announce that on **Tuesday September 28, we will be hosting a virtual Early College Student Leadership Convening from 9am to 12pm**. This online event will provide an opportunity for Early College students to “meet” with peers across the Commonwealth to network and learn from each other, to share accomplishments and insight into the pursuit of higher education, and to engage in informational sessions of their choice. We recognize that this event is scheduled during school but hope you will really consider allowing students the opportunity to participate in some or all of the event.

More information to be sent out next week!



### Early College Virtual Program Fall Convening – October 12, 2021

Join us for our Early College Fall Convening on October 12, 2021. More information to follow!

## Early College in the News

Click [here](#) to access the MAECP Resource site and link to recent publications on MA Early College.

Password: MAECP

Congratulations to all for the recognition of your hard work!

## Calling for Members to Join Data Advisory Team

As we continue to develop our current Early College K-12 Dashboards, as well as develop a second type of Dashboard to share out postsecondary outcomes for EC graduates, we will once again be convening the Early College Data Advisory Team. This team consists of Early College staff from both K-12 and higher education. If you have any interest in joining, or think that someone related to data work at your institution would, please contact Pierre Lucien, SDP Fellow, at [Pierre.Lucien@mass.gov](mailto:Pierre.Lucien@mass.gov).