

# MA Early College Designation Orientation

Virtual Webinar  
2022-2023

# Agenda and Welcome

- **What is Massachusetts Early College?**
  - Description and Student Experience
  - Across the State
- **What is Designation?**
  - Criteria for Designation and Guiding Principles
  - Designated programs: benefits and responsibilities
- **What is the Designation Application Process?**
  - Should this partnership apply for Designation?
  - Timeline of 2022-2023 cycle
  - “Best practices” / Next Steps
  - Resources and links
- **Q&A**

# Welcome and Introductions



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# What is Massachusetts Early College?

## What is Massachusetts Early College?

# High Quality College and Career Pathways

## WHAT ARE HIGH-QUALITY COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS?

- **Career Vocational and Technical Education (CVTE) Pathways**

*Technical expertise in an occupational cluster*

- **Innovation Pathways (IP)**

*Broad exposure to high-level industry sector and work-based learning*

- **Early College Pathways (EC)**

*Early engagement in college credit earning and deep engagement in college access and planning as it relates to future career possibilities*

# What is Massachusetts Early College?

## MA Early College

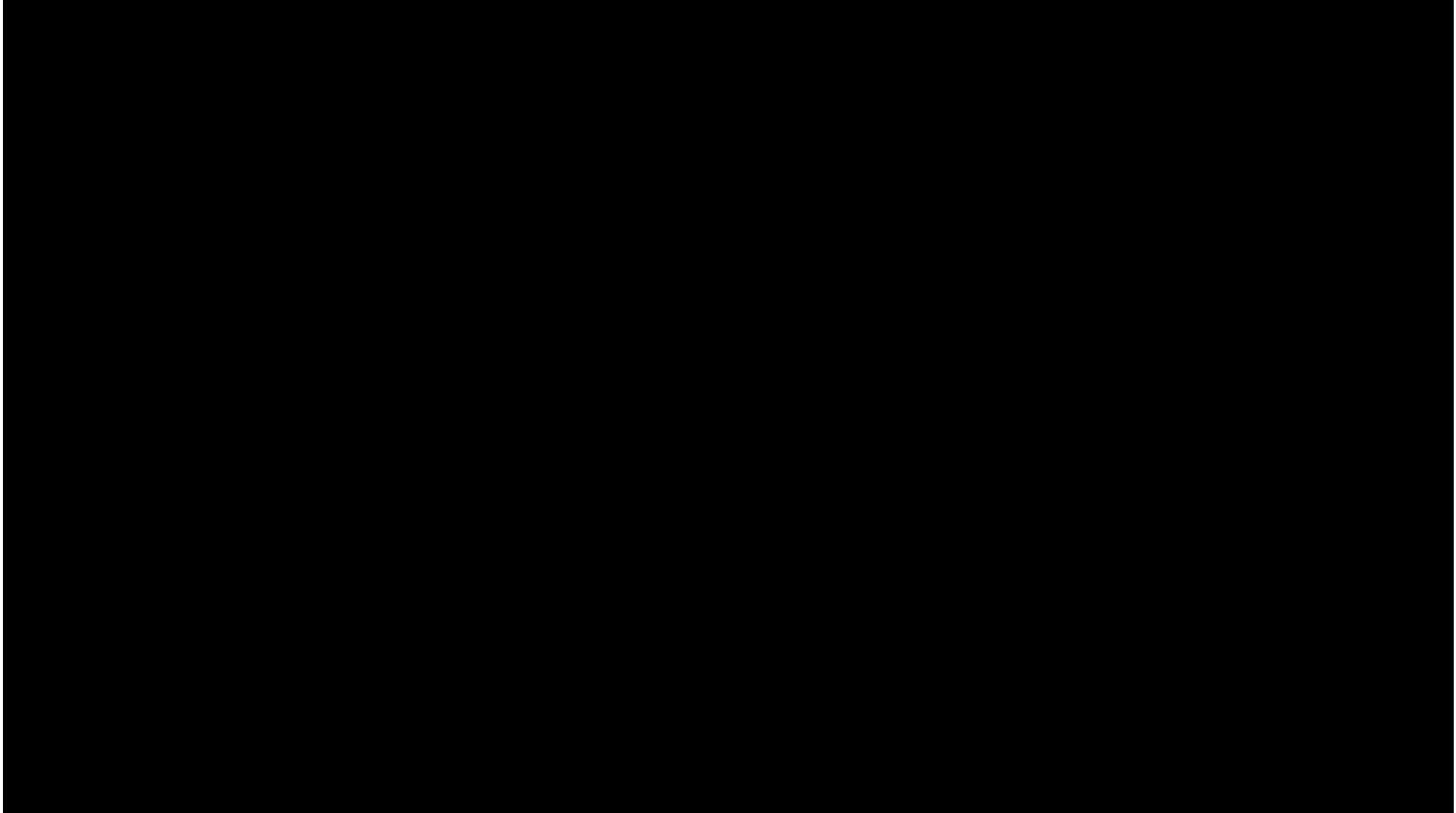
MA Early College provides a structured program of study and supports that increases college success and career readiness, **prioritizing students historically underserved in higher education.**

### *Cohorts of students:*

- Take **at least 12 credits of strategically sequenced college courses** during their regular (or intentionally redesigned and integrated) high school day, **at no cost to themselves or their families**
- Receive **enhanced academic and non-academic guidance and support** prior to beginning, and during, college coursework to ensure that they both successfully complete rigorous courses and thrive in the college environment
- Learn how their guided academic pathways are related and **connected to career opportunities**
- Benefit from being part of an **Early College community** that eases the transition from high school to college
- Graduate from high school with a **significant number of college credits, habits, and skills** needed to be successful in college and career, **increasing the likelihood they will continue with college after high school and reducing the cost and time to degree completion.**

What is Massachusetts Early College?

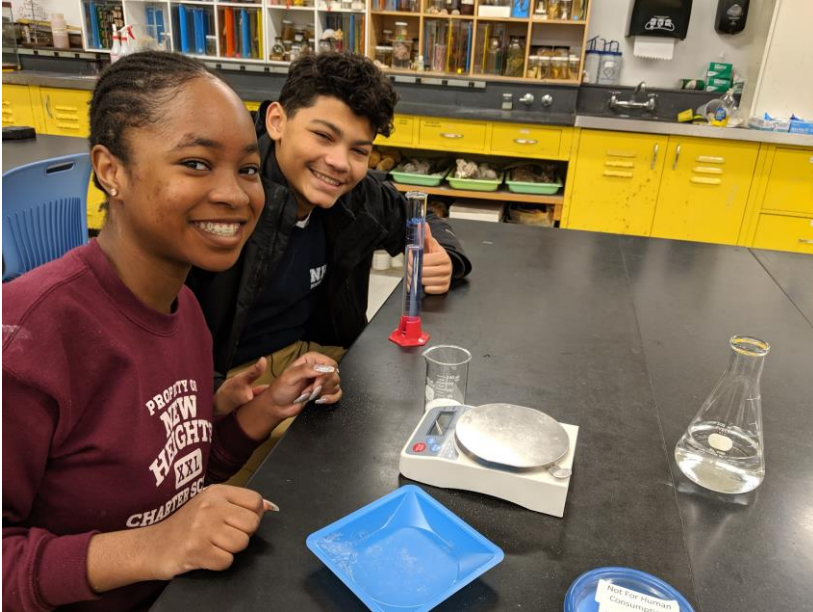
# MA Early College



# What is Massachusetts Early College?

## MA Early College – Student Experience

9<sup>th</sup> Grade



New Heights Charter School

- Students are exposed to the Early College pathway option
- Participation in **college and career exploratory courses/units**.
- They may or may not commit to joining the Early College program this year and may or may not begin preparing for college coursework.

10<sup>th</sup> Grade



Westfield Promise

- Students apply and commit to the EC program.
- Begin on-ramping activities and/or preparation for **college coursework**.
- Students this year may also **begin taking college courses** either at the high school or college campus.
- Students will continue their EC journey in **cohorts with other EC students**.



## What is Massachusetts Early College?

# MA Early College – Student Experience

11<sup>th</sup> Grade



Salem High School

- Students take college coursework and will complete a **minimum of 12 credits before their graduation**
- Courses are taken in a specific sequence as part of their **guided academic pathway**, which are similar to meta-majors.
- Students will continue participating in additional activities that prepare them for college.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade



Madison Park High School

- Students complete their Early College pathway and graduate with a minimum of 12 college credits.
- They have completed a range of activities that have exposed them to, and prepared them for, college.

What is Massachusetts Early College?

# MA Early College – Across the State



There are currently 39 Designated Early College programs, made up of 24 IHEs and 50 high schools\*

\*Including 8 new partnerships just approved to launch in Fall 2022

# What is Designation?

# What is Designation?

## Orientation to the Guiding Principles

### Design Principles

Under the Early College Designation put forth by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (BHE) and Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE), approved designated early college programs in Massachusetts will align with the following design principles:



#### 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

Source: [DHE Early College webpage](#)

## What is Designation?

# The History and Purpose of Designation

*In 2017, the ECJC was charged with developing an Early College Designation process for the Commonwealth based on the five identified principles and **catalyzing the successful growth of high-quality Early College programs in Massachusetts**. The ECJC meets regularly and issues final approvals for all Early College Program Designation in Massachusetts.*

The purpose is 3-fold:

- 1.) **Identify current models** that are aligned with the 5 Guiding Principles
- 2.) Promote the **development of new programs** and establish **coherent and unifying expectations** for those programs
- 3.) Prioritize efforts to **increase equity in postsecondary access and completion** by promulgating the Early College model to alleviate many of the barriers preventing underserved students from realizing their full educational potential in Massachusetts.



## What is Designation?

# Orientation to the Designation Criteria

*Located within the Early College Designation Companion (2022) stemming from the (2017) Designation Criteria .*

The Criteria are specific guidance that uphold and clarify the Guiding Principles. All Designated programs must integrate these components into program design.

### Guiding Principle 1: Equitable Access

***Designated programs should prioritize students underrepresented in higher education enrollment and completion. To facilitate this, programs should be structured to eliminate barriers to student participation. Design might therefore include, but not be limited to, tuition-free participation, open enrollment without regard to prior academic performance, student supports to promote success, scalability, multiple entry points for students, and student supports to prepare students for entry into the program.***

The Designation Criteria pursuant to this guiding principle are designed to focus on the goal of closing achievement gaps and offering educational models to leverage students' own personal assets and help them thrive. Research of early college models nationally has demonstrated the effectiveness of designing early college to ensure equitable access. As such, the Massachusetts Early College designation is designed with the goal of broadening access to college through this model.

Therefore, the Designation Criteria under Principle 1 aim at keeping entry into early college pathways as open as possible, particularly with regard to prior academic performance. It is also focused on prioritizing program design and enrollments for students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education. Therefore, designation applicants are encouraged to make real, targeted, and thoughtful efforts to aggressively recruit students who may be the first in their family to go to college, who are part of demographic groups historically underrepresented in higher education, who may be English language learners, or who may otherwise not yet possess a perception that they may be a college going student.

# What is Designation?

## Benefits of Designation:

- Community of Practice
  - Bi-annual convenings
    - *Upcoming Convening on April 26<sup>th</sup>*
  - PLC series
  - Bi-weekly check-ins
- Technical Assistance
  - Office Hours
  - Coaching
  - Professional Development
- Funding
  - *Planning Grants*\*
  - K-12 Support Grants
  - Tuition Reimbursements

# Responsibilities of Designation:

- Implementing program design\*
  - Continued alignment with Designation Criteria
- Reporting data on student participation
- Reviewing and updating program outcomes
- Demonstrating success by meeting the mission of Early College

\*Designated programs may submit amendments to their program design



# What is the Designation Application Process?

## What is the Designation Application Process?

# Should This Partnership Apply for Designation?

*Is this the right intervention for your students?*

Early College programming is a “game changer” for students who otherwise don’t have a college going identity.

Prioritized students for this program across the state are those traditionally underrepresented in higher education: students who are learning English, students who are low-income, those who might be the first generation in their family to attend college, students who identify as Black and Latinx, and those with different abilities.

### **Components to Consider Before Applying:**

- Scale of impact of the program for students and families
- Mission of increasing equity and access for prioritized populations throughout all aspects of the program
- Deep and intentional partnership with a higher education partner
- Student experience: scheduling, supports, college coursework and related experiences

# What is the Designation Application Process?

## Resource: Readiness Checklist

### Early College Readiness Checklist

The Early College Readiness Checklist is a resource for prospective Early College partners to guide their pre-planning for the Designation application process. While this checklist is organized by structural component, each item is closely tied to the 5 Guiding Principles that are essential to a Designated Early College program.

This checklist was created in partnership with NS4Ed.

#### Mission and Vision

	Yes	No
Have the partners identified a clear rationale for applying for an Early College Designated program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do both partners have an understanding of the differences between Early College and Dual Enrollment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the partners consulted with students and families to determine interest in the Early College program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the partners discussed the projected scale and size of the Early College program, as well as the size of each Early College cohort of students? Do they have a clear rationale for the selected enrollment numbers? Guiding Principle 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Structure and Operations

Have the partners discussed designated staff for the Early College program? Guiding Principle 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the IHE have the physical space available to accommodate Early College students? Guiding Principle 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a partner already has a Designated Early College program, have the prospective partners discussed how these programs will operate in tandem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have both partners had initial conversations with their collective bargaining representatives regarding Early College plans? Guiding Principle 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will both partners be prepared to provide a finalized MOU (if invited to complete Part B of the Designation Application)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# What is the Designation Application Process?

## Application Process - Overview

- Letter of Intent
- Written Applications (Part A and Part B)
  - Part A Application: “Planning” to meet the components of the 5 Guiding Principles
    - Primarily descriptions of plans
  - Part B Application: “Evidence” of meeting the 5 Guiding Principles
    - Primarily uploaded evidence of readiness for launch
    - *Assumption that the Part B Application builds upon the components submitted in the Part A Application, and integrates any feedback provided*
- Interview

# What is the Designation Application Process?

## Timeline of 2022-2023 Cycle

- **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> :** Letters of Intent Due
  - <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6752652/Early-College-Designation-Letter-of-Intent-Spring-2022>
  - Provide contact information, jointly submitted letter of intent by proposed partners, and short proposal summary
- **Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> :** Part A Applications due
- **Fall 2022:** submitted applications reviewed
  - Upon approval of Part A Application, applicants are invited to complete Part B Application
  - Planning funds awarded to support continued planning and development of proposed program
- **December 2022:** Part B Applications due
- **Winter 2023:** Interviews with Early College leadership
- **Spring 2023:** Recommendations for Designation presented to the ECJC
- **Fall 2023:** Launch of Designated programs

# What is the Designation Application Process?

## “Best Practices” / Next Steps

- ❑ Meet with proposed partners to discuss program
  - ❑ *Applicants for designation must be structured partnerships between one 2-year and/or 4-year institution(s) of higher education (IHE) and one K-12 partner... Applicant partners must be a MA public high school, a MA public institution of higher education, or an independent institution of higher education, provided that such an institution is based in Massachusetts and has degree granting authority in Massachusetts.*
- ❑ Review Readiness Checklist
- ❑ Develop proposed program description with partners
- ❑ Submit Letter of Intent (by June 3)
- ❑ Attend “Nuts and Bolts” of Part A Application webinar on June 17<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ Attend technical assistance sessions
- ❑ Develop Part A Application in Word, integrating guidance of Companion Document

# What is the Designation Application Process?

## Resources and Links

- Early College Readiness Checklist

- [checklist.docx \(live.com\)](#)

- Early College Designation Companion Document- 2022

- [companion.docx \(live.com\)](#)

- Letter of Intent

- <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6752652/Early-College-Designation-Letter-of-Intent-Spring-2022>
- Provide contact information, jointly submitted letter of intent by proposed partners, and short proposal summary
- Submission of the Letter of Intent will launch communication with technical assistance

- Part A Application

- Available as a Word Doc here: [part-a-application.docx \(live.com\)](#)

## What is the Designation Application Process?

# Upcoming Events and Additional Support

- Early College Spring 2022 Virtual Convening: “Building Bridges”
  - April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm
  - Register here: [2022 MA ECP Spring Convening Registration \(zohopublic.com\)](https://zohopublic.com/2022-MA-ECP-Spring-Convening-Registration)
  
- “Nuts and Bolts” of Early College Part A Application
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 10am
  - Register here: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=10367>



# Q&A

## The Early College team

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Massachusetts Early College  
Initiative / Massachusetts  
Department of Higher Education

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