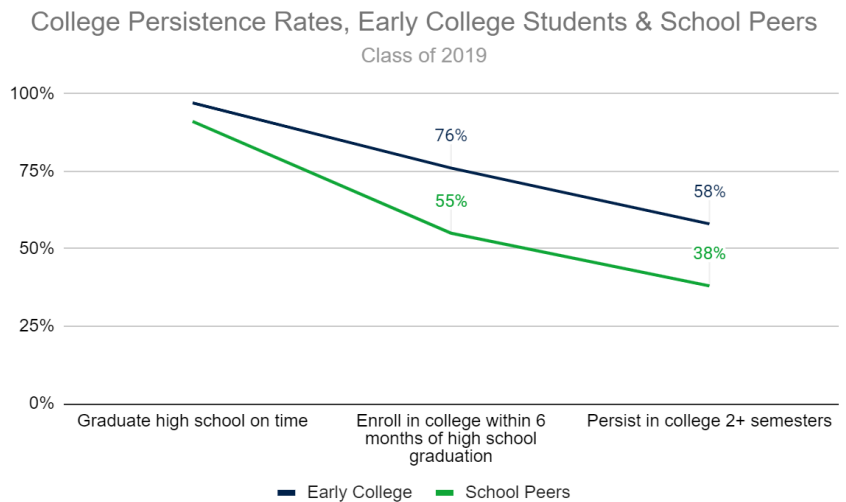


In a few short years, Massachusetts has laid a strong foundation for Early College success and scale. Below is key information on the Early College Initiative based on the most recent publicly-available data.

EARLY COLLEGE OUTCOMES

College Enrollment and Persistence: Early indicators show that Early College, despite very strong COVID-related headwinds, is working to increase both college access and college success.

- ❖ 63% of the Class of 2020 enrolled in college within 6 months of college graduation during the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to 43% of school peers. An equal and positive difference in college enrollment exists across both race and socioeconomic status.
- ❖ When taken together with college enrollment, 58% of Early College graduates from the Class of 2019 are still enrolled in college versus 38% of their school peers.



Credits Earned

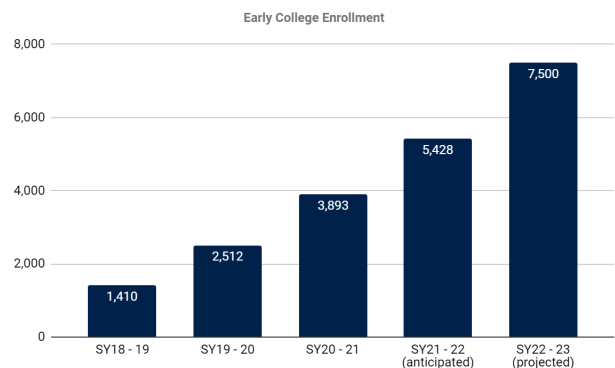
- ❖ In School Year 2020-21, Early College students earned 24,000 credits, saving their families \$5.2 million in tuition and fees.
- ❖ In School Year 2021-22, Early College students are projected to earn 37,000 credits - a 54% increase from the previous school year - saving their families \$7.9 million in tuition and fees.

FAFSA Completion: FAFSA completion is a good predictor of immediate college enrollment. Evidence suggests that Early College students are more likely to complete their FAFSA form and were buffered against impacts of COVID-19.

- ❖ In Spring 2021, 67% of Early College students completed their FAFSA, compared to 40% of school peers.
- ❖ According to a [Brown University report from June 2020](#), 72% of low-income students of color who complete the FAFSA enroll in college, compared to just 18% who do not complete.

EARLY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

- ❖ In Fall 2021, nearly 4,500 students are enrolled in designated Early College programs - that's more than 400% growth since School Year 2018-19.
- ❖ Two-thirds of Early College students in Massachusetts identify as students of color and over half are economically disadvantaged.



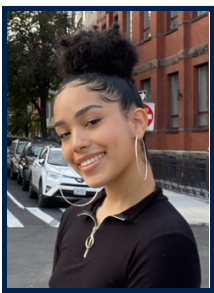
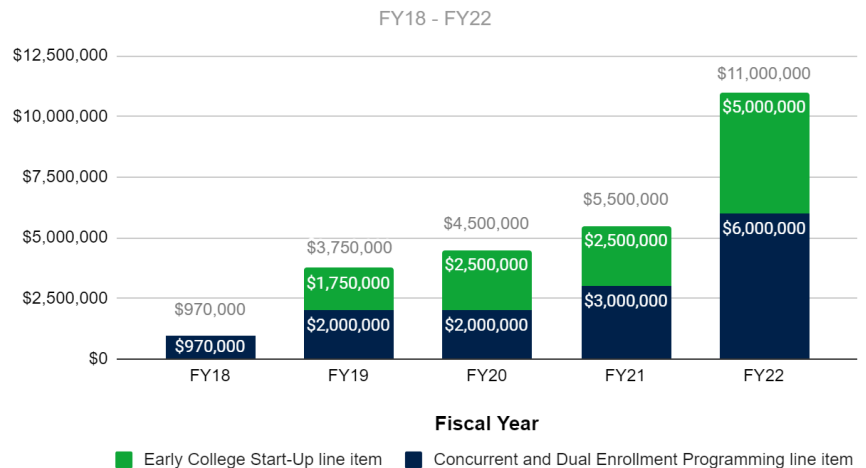
EARLY COLLEGE LANDSCAPE

- ❖ There are 35 designated Early College partnerships across 46 high schools and 23 institutions of higher education.
- ❖ 50% of all high schools in Gateway Cities have designated Early College programs, and 5 out of the 7 WIOA regions have designated Early College programs.
- ❖ At least 41 districts included Early College as a priority in their Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Plans, and 30 of those districts do not yet have a designation.
- ❖ 8 additional partnerships are currently in consideration for State Designation for School Year 2022-23.
- ❖ 30 programs applied for competitive grants through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: 15 to expand existing Early College programs, and 15 to create full-school or regional collaborative Early College programs. In February 2022, 5 programs were awarded Full School Impact Grants and 9 programs were awarded Expansion Grants.

STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE EARLY COLLEGE INITIATIVE

- ❖ In FY22, the state allocated \$11 million in funding for Early College, more than doubling the \$5.5 million investment in FY21, and representing more than a tenfold increase since FY18.
- ❖ \$2.6 million in School Year 2021-22 has been invested for grants and technical assistance encouraging growth.

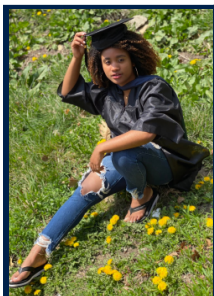
Early College State Budget Funding Growth



"One of my favorite Early College memories was when my classmates and I went to a coffee shop on campus. We saw some college students pass us and without thinking, I said, "that's gonna be us in two years guys," and everyone smiled and discussed our future college plans. The year before, we never thought we would be sitting on a college campus, let alone seeing ourselves as actual college students. Early College gave us the opportunity to prove to ourselves that we can and would be college graduates."

Lisbeth Tineo

Lawrence High School, Class of 2021
Barnard College, Political Science, Expected Class of 2025



"One of my favorite memories from my Early College Experience was walking into my Anatomy and Physiology class feeling completely intimidated by all the fake skeletons around the class and all the real students who looked like adults next to me. The teacher was very attentive and the students were both helpful and friendly. By the end of the class, I felt at home. Because of Early College I was able to understand that college should not be seen through the perspective of being scary but through the perspective of being a great experience."

Rohanji Novas

Fitchburg High School, Class of 2019
Mt. Wachusett Community College, AS Biology, Class of 2021
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Biology, Expected Class of 2023