

Touchpoint Tuesday

October 21, 2025



What We'll Cover

- ❖ Fiscal Updates
- ❖ Data Reporting
- ❖ Early College Learning Hub
- ❖ Early College Rising
- ❖ Upcoming Dates
- ❖ Immediately following the meeting, stay on Zoom for a brief Working Group Kick-off meeting



Fiscal Updates: FY25 and FY26 Grants

Important Deadlines

- ❖ August 31: All FY25 FERs are due in GEM\$.
- ❖ October 31: Last opportunity to request Summer FY26 reimbursements.
- ❖ November 30th: Summer FY26 FERs are due. FER can be used to claim any previously unclaimed final expenditures.



Fiscal Updates: FY25 and FY26 Grants

Final Financial Reports (FER)

- ❖ FERs are due 60 days after the grant ends. If FY25 grantees have not completed the FER, please do so ASAP. Please contact Cashay Grant-Woods if you need support in completing the FER.

Claiming Funds

- ❖ Please remember to submit requests for reimbursement. Request reimbursements ONLY for the funds used. Please do not submit reimbursements for any funds that are not yet used, and/or grantees do not plan to use.



Fiscal Updates: Amendments

- ❖ Amendments are generated by grantees, and Cashay cannot open amendments on the grantee's behalf. Please go to the application, at the top, select APPLICATION REVISION STARTED to begin the process.
- ❖ Applications do not need to be amended if there is no significant change in the Program's objectives, and less than or equal to \$100 or 10% of the line (whichever is greater), or does not exceed \$10,000.



Fiscal Updates: GEMs Info

- ❖ If applications are returned for edits, please review the comment section to see what is being requested. Please give it your prompt attention. Grantees will not be able to use the funding as desired until it is DESE fiscally approved.
- ❖ The contractual service line-item is only for expenses under \$25K. Expenses greater than \$25K should go under the MAJOR contractual service line. Applications will be returned for edits if items are classified incorrectly.



Fiscal Updates: Additional Info



- ❖ When contacting Cashay regarding issues or concerns regarding GEM\$, please be as clear and descriptive as possible and include the year and fund code. If grantees are receiving an error message, please take a screenshot so grantees can be effectively supported. Grantees cannot allocate, use, or encumber funding until DESE fiscal approval is given and/or the ISA is finalized. Check the GAN in GEM\$ to confirm the start date.
- ❖ For contact changes, please be sure to update GEM\$.

Fiscal Updates: Deadlines



- ❖ Please try to complete tasks before the due date, if at all possible. If an issue occurs (and depending on the issue), it does not always allow enough time to troubleshoot. Grantees run the risk of not receiving an extension and could lose funding and/or lose out on funding opportunities.
- ❖ Please read all emails; they contain important information regarding deadlines and/or funding available.
- ❖ If there are changes and/or concerns that affect your ability to spend all funding, please contact Cashay ASAP. Cashay is more than happy to provide recommendations and/or brainstorm on how the funding could be utilized.

Fiscal Updates: FC461

School Year FY26 Early College Planning Grant FC461

- ❖ The RFP for FY26 FC 461 Early College Planning Grant is now posted for review. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2026/461A-B/>

According to the RFP, grantees will notice there are two options available, A and B. Please apply according to the requirements stated in the RFP.

- ❖ **Option A** (FC461A) is available in GEM\$. All applications must be at the LEA Superintendent step by the deadline of Friday, October 31st.
- ❖ **Option B** (FC461B) is available in GEM\$. All applications must be at the LEA Superintendent step by the deadline of Friday, November 7th. Please note, you can begin the application, but you will not be able to submit budgets for review until the funding is loaded. Please allow 1 to 2 weeks for this to be completed.



Fiscal Updates: FC0470

School Year FY26 Early College Capacity Grant FC0470

- ❖ This is the final year of this 3-year grant. For programs that require an ISA, you cannot use or allocate funding until the ISA is finalized. The Office of Early College does not manage or disperse ISAs. The Office of Grants Management is solely responsible for this component.
In GEM\$, if your program's name begins with ISA, you are responsible for ensuring your ISAs are accurate and reflect your current budget.



Fiscal Updates

If you have any issues or concerns, please email Cashay Grant-Woods at Cashay.c.grant-woods@mass.gov for support.

Thank you for your patience and collaboration.

Happy Spending.



Early College Data Reporting

October 2025 SIMS opened October 1, 2025, with a certification (final) deadline of October 24, 2025

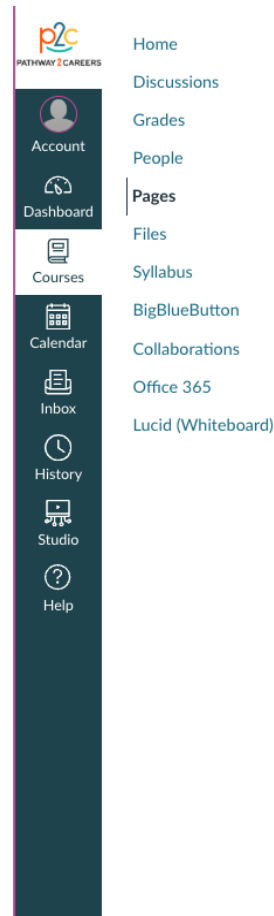
- ❖ Live Early College Data Reporting Support Office Hours
 - Wednesday, October 22, 2025: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ All Office Hours will take place on Zoom, no registration required. Click [HERE](#) to join Office Hours.



Early College Learning Hub

❖ Overview of Learning Hub

❖ Link to Join



Welcome to the MA Early College Learning Hub

[Pathway2Careers](#), in partnership with the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) and [Department of Higher Education](#), provides technical assistance, coaching, and resources for Massachusetts Early College designees, applicants, and prospective applicants. You will find information specific to designated Early College programs in this Learning Hub.

"Rising for Student Success. Rooted in Unity."

A shared commitment to building strong foundations and working collaboratively to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

This year's Early College theme embodies the collective spirit and strategic direction of our work across Massachusetts. Together, we are grounded in readiness, united in purpose, and rising with opportunity for every student.

Quick Links



and



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

in partnership with



SCHOOL SERVICES
& INNOVATION

Early College Rising



*Planted with Purpose. Growing with Equity.
Rising with Opportunity for Early College in Massachusetts.*

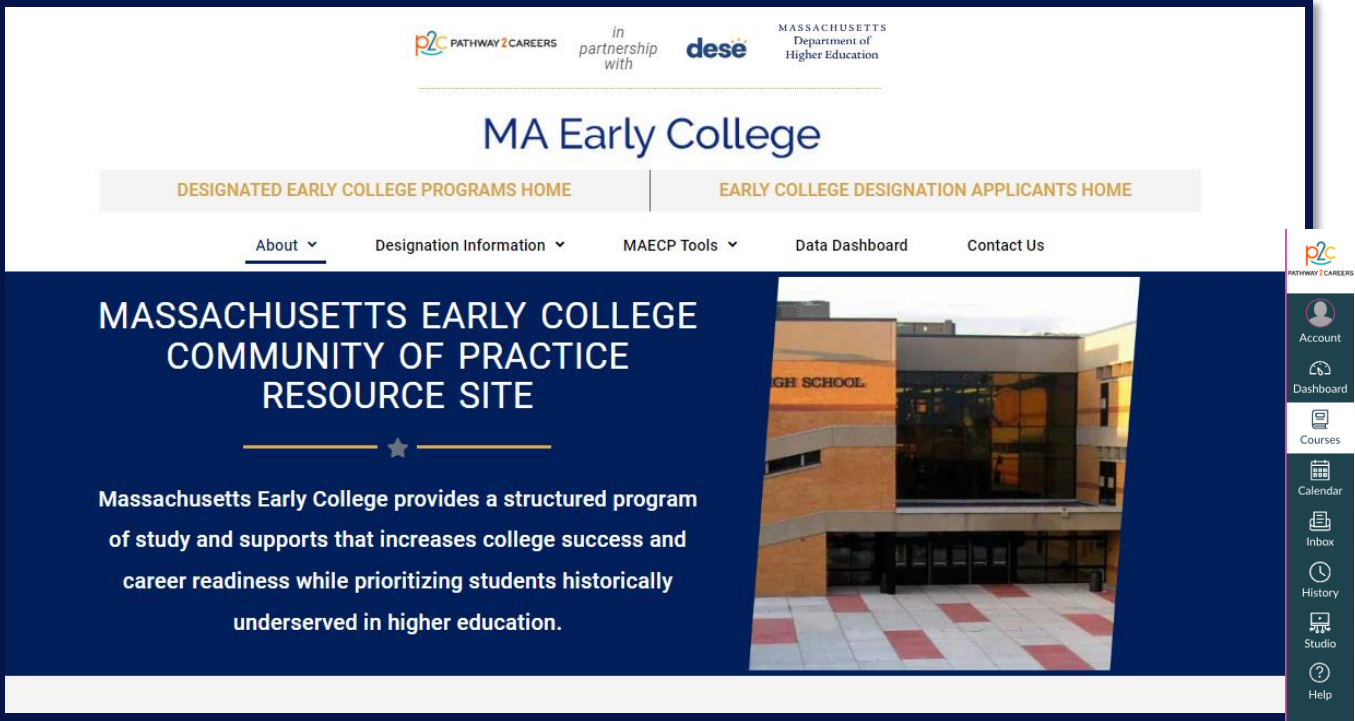
Let's hear it for those
who rise for every
child and one
another!

Coming Up

- ❖ **October 22** – 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Final SIMS Data Reporting Office Hours. To join, click [HERE](#).
- ❖ **October 24** – SIMS Certification Deadline
- ❖ **October 31** –
 - Summer FY26 FERs due in GEM\$
 - Early College Planning Grant (**FC 461A**) due in GEM\$
- ❖ **November 4** – 1:00 p.m. – Next Touchpoint Tuesday Meeting
- ❖ **November 7** – Early College Planning Grant (**FC 461B**) due in GEM\$



Resource Site and Learning Hub



<https://www.maearlycollege.com/>

<https://p2c.instructure.com/courses/533>



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Quick Links



Contact Us

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