

2026 MA Early College Commitment Form-DUE BY APRIL 13, 2026

Page description:

Welcome to the Massachusetts Early College (EC) Commitment form. This form must be completed by prospective new EC programs, including any partnership with a K–12 institution that does not currently hold an EC Designation.

The MA EC Commitment form includes a set of informational questions and assurances that serve as evidence that partners have engaged in preliminary discussions and planning for an EC program and are ready to formally commit to the EC Planning Phase with the desired outcome of MA EC Designation.

The Commitment form will be open from March 6 to April 13, 2026.

The Commitment form is required for eligibility for any of the other EC Designation phases. Please be advised that programs that do not uphold the assurances in the EC Commitment by the end of the Planning Phase may not move forward to Initial Designation.

For Designated partnerships looking to add an additional IHE partner, please request the Program Modification form. For questions on either the Commitment form or to request the Program Modification form, please reach out to Danielle Wheeler, MA EC Program Director at Danielle.Wheeler@mass.gov

PART 1: Early College Program Partners *

K-12 School

K-12 District

Institution of Higher
Education

If relevant, Additional K-12
School

If relevant, Additional K-12
District

If relevant, Additional Institution of Higher
Education

Other:

Comments

Please enter the contact information below for the two primary Application contacts.

These individuals will receive relevant updates, communication, and questions regarding the proposed Early College program.

You are also asked to provide contact information for the District Superintendent and the President of the College or University.

To add additional contact information to our contact mailing list, please email Kelly Kennedy:

kelly.kennedy@p2c.org

Primary K-12 Designation Applicant Contact Information: *

Name

Role

Institution

Email

District Superintendent *

Name

Email

Primary IHE Designation Applicant Contact Information: *

Name

Role

Institution

Email

College/University President *

Name

Email

Part 2: Vision and Assurances

1. What is your vision and rationale for the program? Describe the planned partnership and shared vision for the proposed program, how it addresses a specific demonstrated need for your population, and the intended program impact. *

Instructions for Assurances:

Please confirm that leaders from the partner institutions have reviewed and discussed the assurances, have a general understanding of the EC Guiding Principles and criteria, and are willing and able to commit to developing a successful program plan for intended launch in the following year.

Note: For the assurances related to the Guiding Principles, there is a reference to the Designation criteria it reflects. Once approved for Planning Phase, you will receive updated Guidance on the Criteria to assist you in meeting these assurances.

If you cannot answer "yes" to an assurance, please explain why at the end of the survey. Please note, that an inability to meet assurances may result in your partnership not being approved to pursue the Program Design Phase.

2. Commitment to Engagement: Both partners agree to fully engage in the Planning Phase including attending required activities (sending consistent teams from all partners), as well as conducting any pre-work and follow up tasks. Below is a description and general timeline of the required meetings. More details will be provided once approved for the Planning Phase.

- Orientation to the New Designation Process, Part 1 and 2 – February and March
- Leadership Meeting: Preparing to Launch the Planning Phase – May
- Four Professional Learning Sessions for Program Design (Part 1,2,3,4) – TBD Summer/Fall
- Program Plan Review and any requested interviews– Fall
- My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) training if needed (requirement for Designation)

*

- Yes
- No

Please note that for the following assurances, there is a reference to the Designation criteria it reflects. Once approved for Planning Phase, you will receive updated Guidance on the Criteria to assist you in meeting these assurances.

3. We are committed to building a program that supports **Principle 1: Equitable Access** through:

	Yes	No
1. Designing a pathway program comprised of a supported strategic sequence of courses to increase college access and participation that extend opportunities beyond traditional dual enrollment (1.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Building an intentional outreach and recruitment plan accessible to all students, particularly those who might not otherwise feel able to pursue college. (1.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Establishing and maintaining a sustainable cohort with intentional enrollment strategies aligned with mission (1.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Building a program design in which all aspects of the program are free to students and their families. (1.4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Building a program that does not exclude students based on past academic performance but rather onboards and supports broad student participation, especially for students who are underrepresented in higher education. (1.4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.

We are committed to building a program that supports **Principle 2: Guided Academic Programs of Study** through *

	Yes	No
1. Integrating Early College program into the broader school plan for all partner institutions, complementing other pathways or programs.(2.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Creating a coherent guided academic program that is comprised of courses that are widely transferable and meet high school graduation requirements, MassCore and MassTransfer. (2.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Integrating the program into the schedule for the regular school day, including formalized supports accessible to all students. (2.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Providing onboarding and supports for pursuing college coursework using a variety of strategies including sustained vertical curriculum alignment, academic skill building , intentional and accessible academic supports and broadening measures of course readiness to increase student access. (2.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Planning for immersive college experiences on the college campus (and we understand that fully asynchronous program models are not allowable). (2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Providing clear and transparent academic policies that are aligned across institutions, covering course enrollment, add/drop, formalized early warning systems, failures, and transferability of credits to students and families. (2.4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Planning early intervention and supports so students and educators are regularly apprised of student progress. (2.4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.

We are committed to building a program that supports **Principle 3: Enhanced Student Supports** through *

Yes No

1.. Building an enhanced academic support plan for EC students that is embedded into school day so EC students can access easily. (3.1)

2. Building a plan to provide wrap around enhanced non-academic supports. Non-academic supports include SEL supports, cultivating students' college going identity through college exposure, financial aid planning, and college application support. (3.2)

3. Providing enhanced academic and non-academic services, coordinated and delivered by all partners, with the necessary infrastructure and finances, separate and apart from DESE and/or DHE funding. (3.2)

6.

We are committed to building a program that supports **Principle 4: Connections to Careers** through *

Yes No

1. Creating career development experiences linked to the EC program. (4.1)

2.Engaging industry whenever possible in the program and will identify potential partners. (4.2)

7. We are committed to building a program that supports **Principle 5: Effective Partnerships** through

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	Yes	No
1. Ensuring all prospective partners are committed to this program and each institution's leadership is actively engaged. (5.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Building a strategic partnership configuration that is feasible and aligned to our specific needs. (5.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Confirming that higher education partners have the capacity, including physical space to accommodate EC students on campus. (5.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Creating a staffing and leadership plan and ensuring capacity to meet its demands. (5.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Producing of a signed comprehensive MOU by the end of the planning phase that will detail key commitments, dedicated systems and structures, a shared budget, and leadership and staffing responsibilities. (5.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Addressing all relevant topics with our collective bargaining representatives regarding EC plans. (5.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Developing a transportation plan for EC students to attend events, advising, and college coursework at the IHE. (5.2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Developing an Early College Program Evaluation Plan during the planning phase that identifies annual targets to move from Initial Designation towards the Full Designation requirements. (5.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Do you have any identified concerns that you have required you to answer "No" to any of the above assurances? If so, please explain here.

9. Do you have any initial questions that the OEC team can answer at this time?

10. At this time, have you identified any external consultants or resources you plan to employ to assist you in the planning phase? If so, could you please provide us their contact information.

Thank You!

Thank you for submitting a Commitment to Early College Program Design.

Please keep in mind that by completing this form both partner institutions are committing to virtually attend the Program Design webinar series, beginning late spring 2026. Once approved for Planning, a Welcome Packet with a schedule of trainings will be provided.
