

Touchpoint Tuesday

August 19, 2025



What We'll Cover

- ❖ Welcome Back
- ❖ New Early College Designees
- ❖ FY26 Theme
- ❖ Fiscal Updates
- ❖ Annual Reports
- ❖ Working Groups Overview
- ❖ Early College Rising
- ❖ Upcoming Dates



FY25 Early College Designees

Secondary School Partner	Institution of Higher Education (IHE)
Argosy Collegiate Charter School	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Attleboro High School	Bristol Community College
Avon High School	Quincy College
Beverly High School	North Shore Community College
Billerica Memorial High School	University of Massachusetts Lowell
B.M.C. Durfee High School	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Brockton High School	Bridgewater State University
Brockton High School	Massasoit Community College
Clinton High School	Mt. Wachusett Community College and Fitchburg State
David Prouty High School	Worcester State
John J. Duggan Academy	American International College
Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers	Bunker Hill Community College
Margarita Muniz Academy	University of Massachusetts Boston
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School	Middlesex CC
Methuen High School	University of Massachusetts Lowell
New Bedford High School	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Pittsfield High School	Berkshire Community College
Tech Boston Academy	University of Massachusetts Boston

FY25 Early College Designation Highlights

Program Growth

The 18 programs designated will yield 1,415 students in the Fall.



- Total Designated Partnerships: 73
- Current High Schools 55 + New High Schools 14 = 69
- Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) 28 + New IHE 4 = 32
- Private IHEs: 6



First Time Designated IHEs:

- American International College
- Berkshire Community College
- UMass Dartmouth
- UMass Lowell

Designated High Schools adding a New Partner:

- Argosy Collegiate Charter School
- B.M.C. Durfee High School
- New Bedford High School

FY26 Theme



Planted with Purpose. Growing with Equity. Rising with Opportunity.



in partnership with



Mark Your Calendars

- ❖ **October 17** – Early College Middle School Recruitment Pep Rally
- ❖ **November 7** – Early College Recruitment Rally
- ❖ **February 27** – Early College Recruitment Rally
- ❖ **April 10** – Early College Leadership Convening
- ❖ **May 8** – Early College Student Summit
- ❖ **May 8** – Early College Parent Engagement Rally (Dinner)



Fiscal Information

FY26 Grantees:

FC 0460 EC Support and FC 0470 EC Capacity Grants

Important Deadlines

- ❖ **Monday, June 30th**: All FY25 grants ended. All supplies, goods, and services must be received and/or completed by June 30th.
- ❖ **August 15th**: Last day to request reimbursements for FY25 grants that ended June 30, 2025. If this due date is missed, receiving reimbursements is not guaranteed.
- ❖ **August 31st**: All FY25 FERs are due in GEMs.
- ❖ **August 31st**: All Summer FY26 grants end. All supplies, goods, and services must be received and/or completed by August 31st.
- ❖ **October 31st**: All Summer FY26 FERs are due in GEMs.



Fiscal Information

Webinars for School Year FY26:

- ❖ If your program missed the webinar hosted on Friday, July 18th, and did not have a fiscal and programmatic representative attend. In the event that additional funding becomes available, programs are ineligible to be considered for this funding opportunity. Attending webinars is mandatory and referenced in the RFP.
- ❖ If you missed the first webinar, there will be another opportunity later in the year. Date TBD.



Fiscal Information

Final Financial Reports (FER):

- ❖ For FY25 grants, the final reports (FER) in GEMS, which ended June 30th, are due 9.20.25.
- ❖ Summer FY26 grants, the final reports (FER) in GEMS, which end on August 31st, are due 10.31.25.
- ❖ Funding cannot be used or allocated past the end date of the grant.



Fiscal Information

Additional Information

- ❖ 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 the change is 10% or under \$10,000 for the line-item change.
- ❖ If applications are returned for edits, please review the comment section to see what is being requested. Do not let the application sit. Grantees will not be able to use the funding as desired until it is DESE fiscally approved.



Fiscal Information

Additional Information

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ When contacting Cashay regarding issues or concerns regarding GEMS, 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.



Fiscal Information

Additional Information (cont.)

- ❖ Grantees cannot allocate, use, or encumber funding until DESE fiscal approval is given. Check the GAN in GEMs to confirm the start date.
- ❖ Do not wait until the last minute or on the due date to complete tasks. 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.



Fiscal Information

Additional Information (cont.)

- ❖ Do not ignore emails; they are not FYI and 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 about how the funding could be utilized. Programs will be penalized for returning funding. Also, if you wait until the last minute, grantees could take away another program's opportunity to use the funding.



Fiscal Information

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.



Annual Reports

Early College Annual Reports will be accepted via Alchemer up to 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2025.

- ❖ Intended for programs designated in spring 2024 or earlier
- ❖ Only one partner needs to submit on behalf of the partnership
- ❖ If a high school has two or more distinct partnerships, they will need to submit two or more reports
- ❖ If you start a survey and need to close the report to come back at a later time, please email Renee.Poisson@mass.gov to receive an edit link



Working Groups



- ❖ Three Groups:
 - ❖ Multilingual Learners in Early College
 - ❖ Students with Disabilities in Early College
 - ❖ College Advising
- ❖ Meet monthly from October through April
- ❖ Dates/Times TBA at next Touchpoint Tuesday

Early College Rising

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

Planted with Purpose. Growing with Equity. Rising with Opportunity.

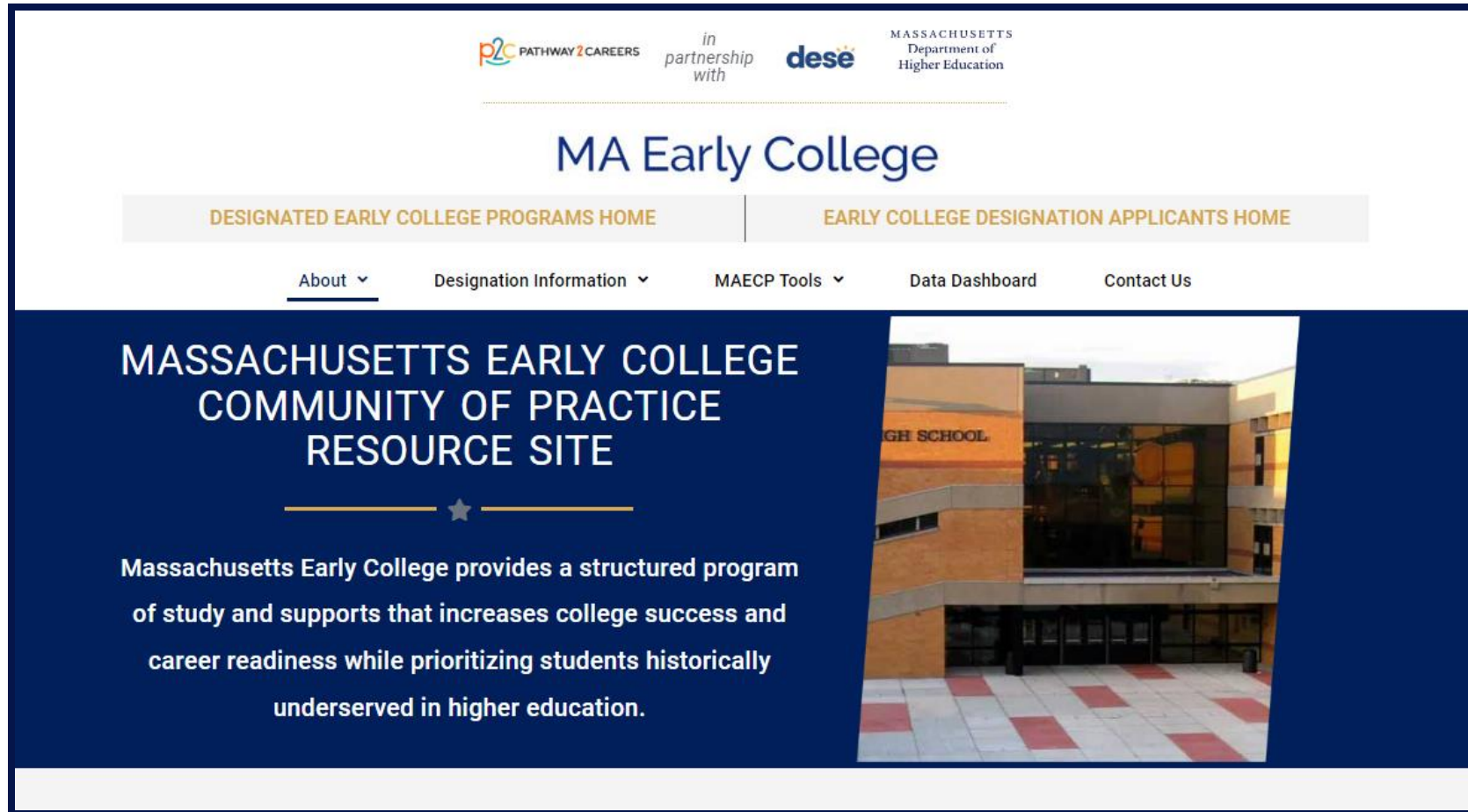


Coming Up

- ❖ **September 9 – 1:00 p.m.** – Next Touchpoint Tuesday Meeting
- ❖ **September 19** – Part A Applications are due for programs applying for Early College Designation
- ❖ **September 30** – Annual Reports are due no later than 5:00 p.m.



Resource Site



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

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