

Touchpoint Tuesday

September 9, 2025



What We'll Cover

- ❖ Welcome Back
- ❖ New Early College Designees
- ❖ FY26 Theme
- ❖ Fiscal Updates
- ❖ Annual Reports
- ❖ Working Groups Overview
- ❖ FC0470 Capacity Grant PD
- ❖ 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 University
David Prouty High School	Worcester State University
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 Community College
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 IHE's: 6



First Time Designated IHE's:

- 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 for Early College in Massachusetts.*

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

FY25 and FY26 Grantees:

FC 0460 EC Support and FC 0470 EC Capacity Grants

Important Deadlines

- ❖ September 30th: All FY25 FERs are due in GEMs.
- ❖ October 31st: All Summer FY26 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 31
- ❖ August 27th was the final deadline to request reimbursements
- ❖ June 30th: All FY25 grants ended. All supplies, goods, and services must be received and/or completed by June 30th.



School Year FY26 EC Planning Grant FC0461

- ❖ FC 461 will be posted on the DESE grant website when available.
- ❖ If your program missed the first webinar, there will be another opportunity later the year.
- ❖ Date TBD.



Fiscal Information

Final Financial Reports (FER):

- ❖ For FY25 grants, the final reports (FER) in GEMS, which ended June 30th, were due 8.31.25.
- ❖ Summer FY26 grants, the final reports (FER) in GEMS, which ended on August 31st, are due 10.31.25.
- ❖ Funding cannot be used or allocated past the end date of the grant.
- ❖ If FY25 grantees have not completed the FER, Program Director Danielle Wheeler and or Program Manager Chinna Mapp will contact grantees as a reminder.



Claiming Funds

- ❖ Please remember to submit all reimbursements.
- ❖ Requests should be made for funds that have been used.



Amendments

- ❖ Amendments are generated by grantees.
- ❖ To create an amendment while in the application, select APPLICATION REVISION STARTED to begin the process.
- ❖ If the change in program does not exceed \$10,000, then no amendment is needed.



Return for Edits



- ❖ 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

- ❖ The contractual service line-item is only for expenses under \$25K.
- ❖ MAJOR contractual service line- item is for expenses over 25K.
- ❖ Please be sure to use the correct classification so that applications are not returned for edits.
- ❖ When communicating regarding issues or concerns with GEMS, please 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. Check the GAN in GEMs to confirm the start date.



Fiscal Information

- ❖ We appreciate your punctuality; it allows time for problem-solving.
- ❖ Thank you for responding to important emails regarding funding and compliance.
- ❖ If there are changes and/or concerns that affect your ability to spend all funding, please contact Danielle Wheeler and Cashay Grant-Woods.



Fiscal Support

Please email Cashay Grant-Woods
at Cashay.c.grant-woods@mass.gov
for support.



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 later, please email Renee.Poisson@mass.gov to receive an edit link



Working Groups: Overview

- ❖ Join current Massachusetts Early College practitioners to discuss best practices for supporting and advising Early College students.
- ❖ Hear from guest speakers and participate in conversations, problem-solving, and strategizing guided by Co-Leaders and Fellows from the field.
- ❖ As in years' past, we will incorporate specific supports and discussion around Multilingual Learners, Students with Disabilities, and College Advising.

Working Group Meetings

The joint Early College Working Group Meetings will be held on the second Thursday from **10:00 a.m. to noon.**

Dates for the 2025-2026 academic year are:

- ❖ November 13, 2025
- ❖ December 11, 2025
- ❖ January 8, 2026
- ❖ February 12, 2026
- ❖ March 12, 2026
- ❖ April 9, 2026

Interested in Working Groups?

Interested in participating? Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to the right.



FC0470 Capacity Grant Professional Development

Amelia Massengill-McLeod, Education
Consultant, RTI International

Early College Rising



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

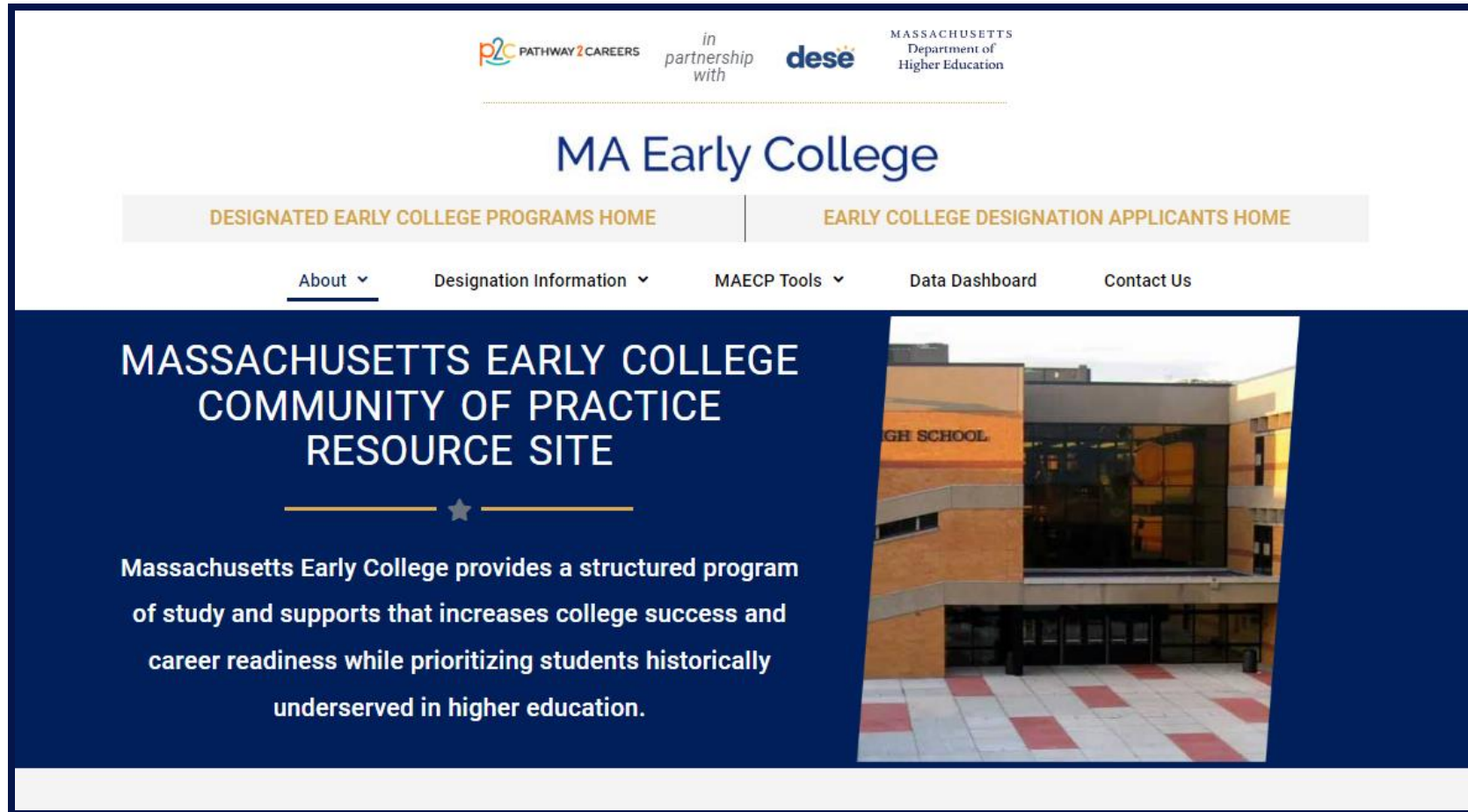
Let's hear it for those
who rise for every
child and one
another!

Coming Up



- ❖ **September 23 – 1:00 p.m.** – Next Touchpoint Tuesday Meeting
- ❖ **September 30** – Annual Reports are due no later than 5:00 p.m.

Resource Site-www.maeearlycollege.com



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

Contact Us

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Phylitia Jamerson , Executive Director of Early College, DESE	phylitia.jamerson@mass.gov	781.873.9803
Richard Riccardi , Deputy Commissioner, DHE	rriccardi@dhe.mass.edu	
Kristin Hunt , Sr Director of EC Planning and Policy, DESE	kristin.e.hunt@mass.gov	
Danielle Wheeler , Director of Early College Programs, DESE	danielle.wheeler@mass.gov	
Cashay Grant-Woods , Early College Fiscal Manager, DESE	cashay.c.grant-woods@mass.gov	
Renee Poisson , Early College Program Specialist, DESE	renee.poisson@mass.gov	
Chinna Mapp , Early College Program Manager	china.mapp2@mass.gov	
Kelly Kennedy , Program Manager, Education Services, P2C	kelly.kennedy@p2c.org	865.318.6465
Jamisa Williams , Vice President of School Services, P2C	jamisa.williams@p2c.org	865.318.6740