



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

MAIN OFFICE
One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108

TEL (617) 994-6950
WEB www.mass.edu

OFFICE of STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

TEL (617) 391-6070
WEB www.mass.edu/osfa

Carlos E. Santiago
Commissioner

Chris Gabrieli
Board Chairman

MEMORANDUM

TO: Police Chiefs and State Police Majors

FROM: Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner, Department of Higher Education
Terrence Reidy, Secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

DATE: February 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Memoranda of Understanding with Colleges and Universities

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE), in coordination with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), is reaching out to local law enforcement agency (LEA) leaders across the state to introduce [Chapter 337 of the Acts of 2020](#), also known as the 2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law, and highlight its emphasis on collaboration between LEAs and the Commonwealth's colleges and universities¹ to identify, prevent and respond to campus sexual assault.

Under the statute, each institution shall, to the extent feasible, adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement agencies to establish the respective roles and responsibilities of each party related to the prevention of and response to on-campus and off-campus sexual misconduct. In compliance with the statute, DHE promulgated regulations ([610 CMR 14.00](#)) to implement this subsection on Police MOUs.

Over the last couple of months, DHE has been coordinating with stakeholders to provide guidance on the development of these MOUs, and encouraging institutions to begin the conversations with their LEAs. The DHE asked institutions via an annual report that was due on December 31, 2021 to provide a status update on Year 1 implementation efforts to establish, where feasible, the necessary MOUs with local law enforcement agencies, and to identify areas where technical assistance may be helpful. An institution that has not yet entered into an MOU with its local LEA(s) will be expected to submit to the DHE a "feasibility assessment" required by 610 CMR 14.04(2), which will include at a minimum, a "summary of and attestation to the

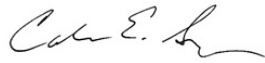
¹ The 2021 Campus Sexual Assault Law applies to all public and private institutions of higher education located in the Commonwealth and authorized to grant degrees.

institution's good faith efforts towards entering into an MOU with the local law enforcement agency that meets the minimum requirements set forth in 610 CMR 14.03." 610 CMR 14.04(2)(a).

DHE and EOPSS encourage your cooperation with institutions as they begin (if they have not already) their efforts to comply with this section of the law. As you will find, in many instances, local LEAs and institutions likely have these agreements in place already, perhaps informally, and/or more formally to include other areas of campus safety planning and response.

DHE will also be posting some sample MOUs to their [website](#) soon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to Amanda Robbins, DHE Campus Safety Advisor at arobbins@dhe.mass.edu.



Carlos E. Santiago
Commissioner
Department of Higher Education



Terrence Reidy
Secretary
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security