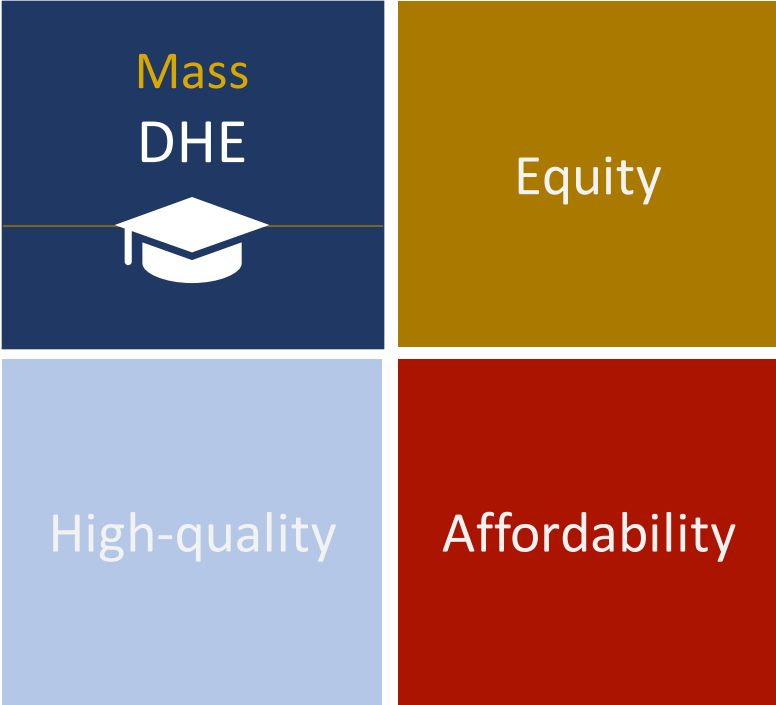
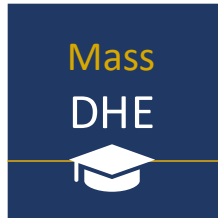


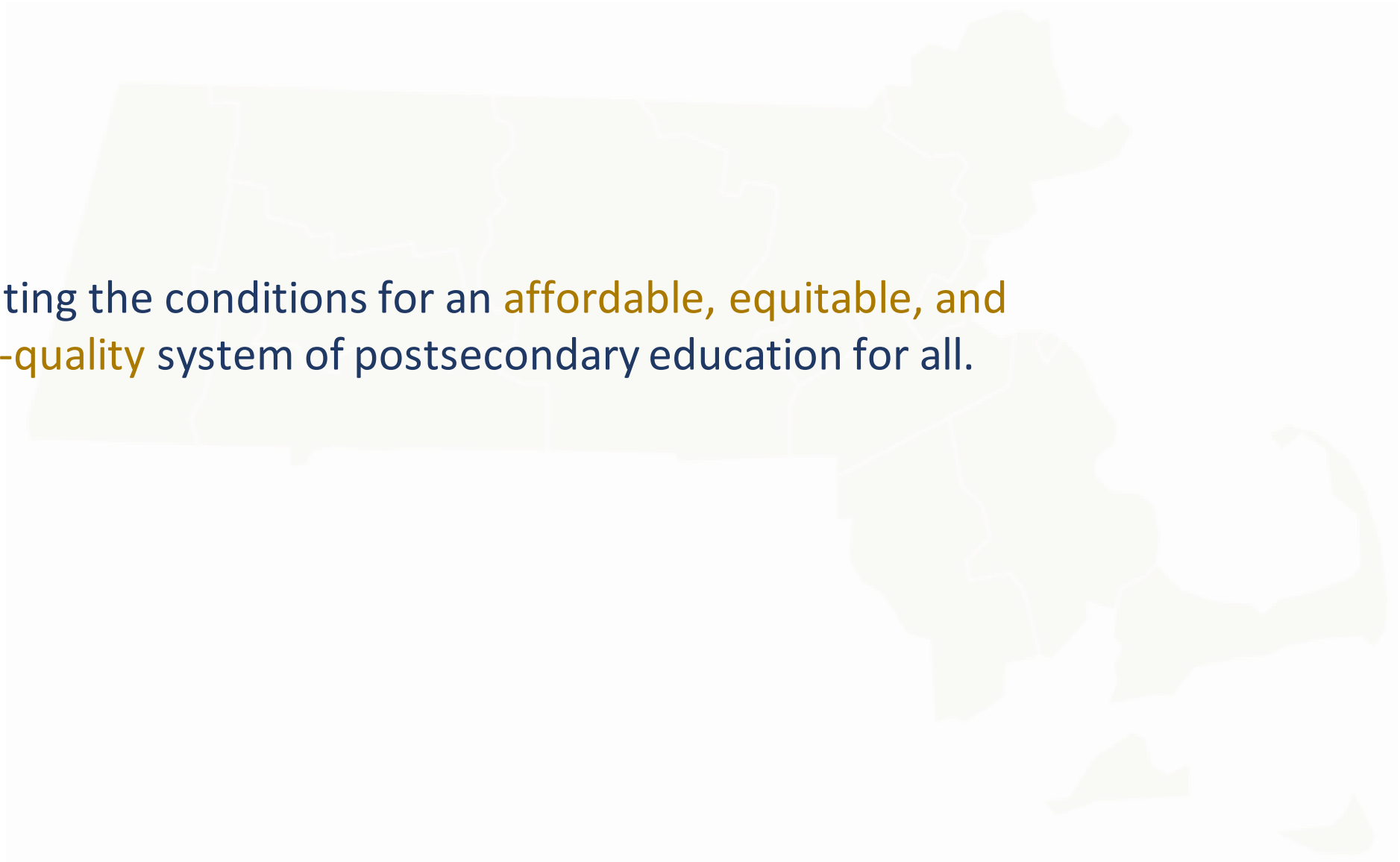
Commissioner's Spotlight

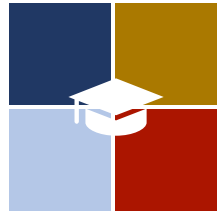
March 19, 2024



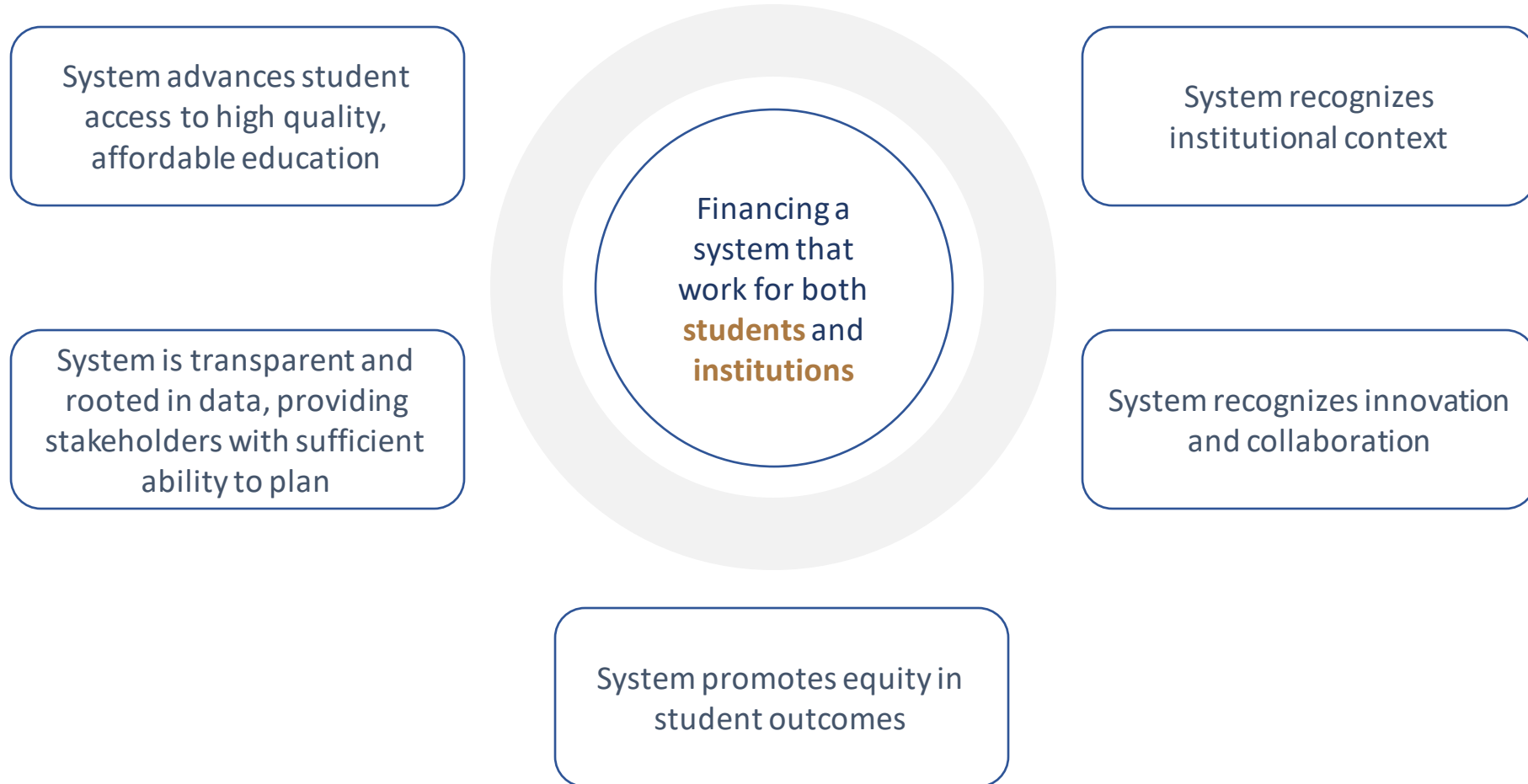


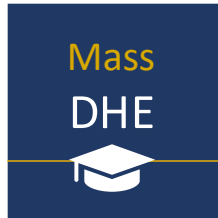
Creating the conditions for an **affordable, equitable, and high-quality** system of postsecondary education for all.





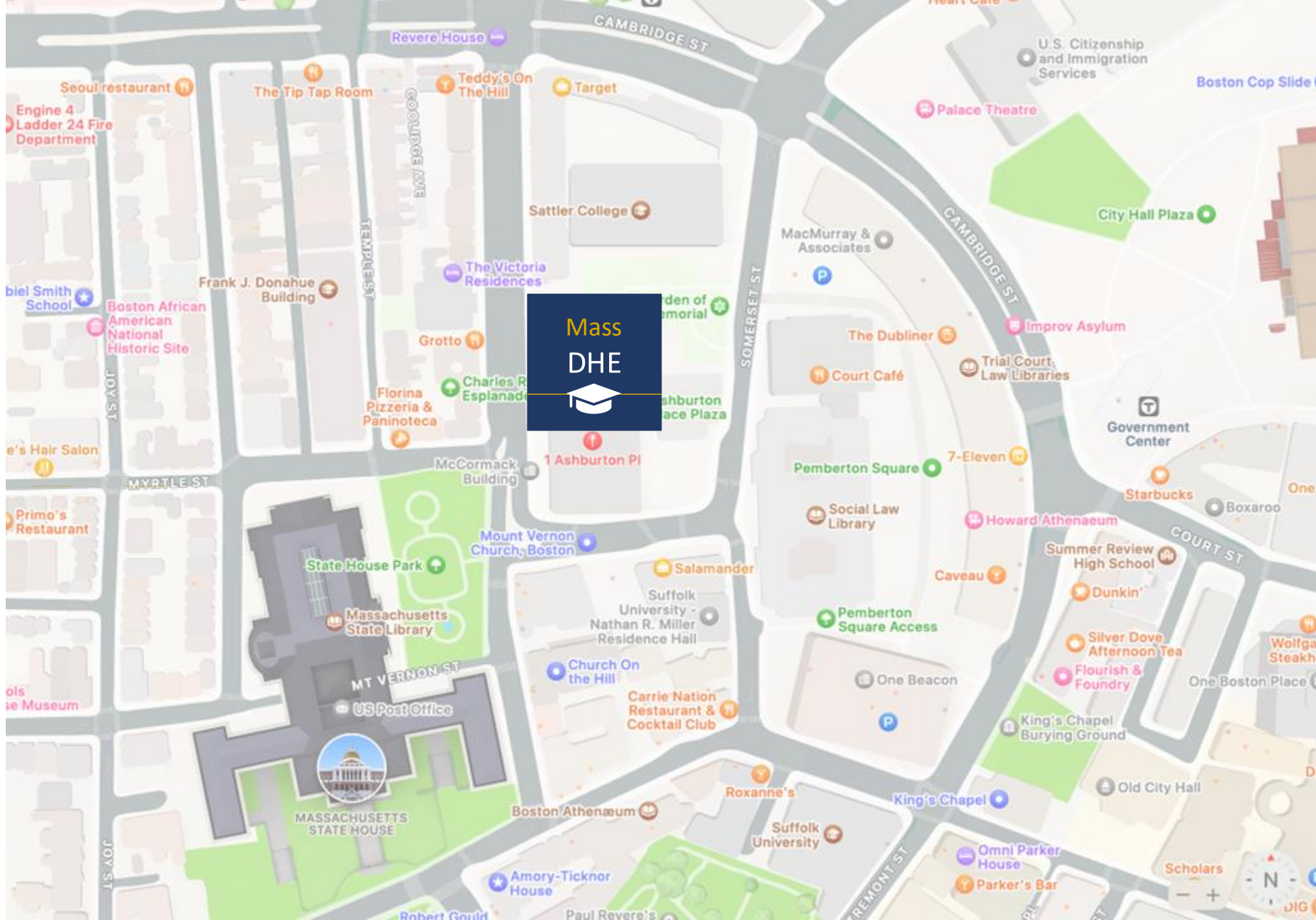
Vision and Framework





Department of Higher Education Operations & Structure



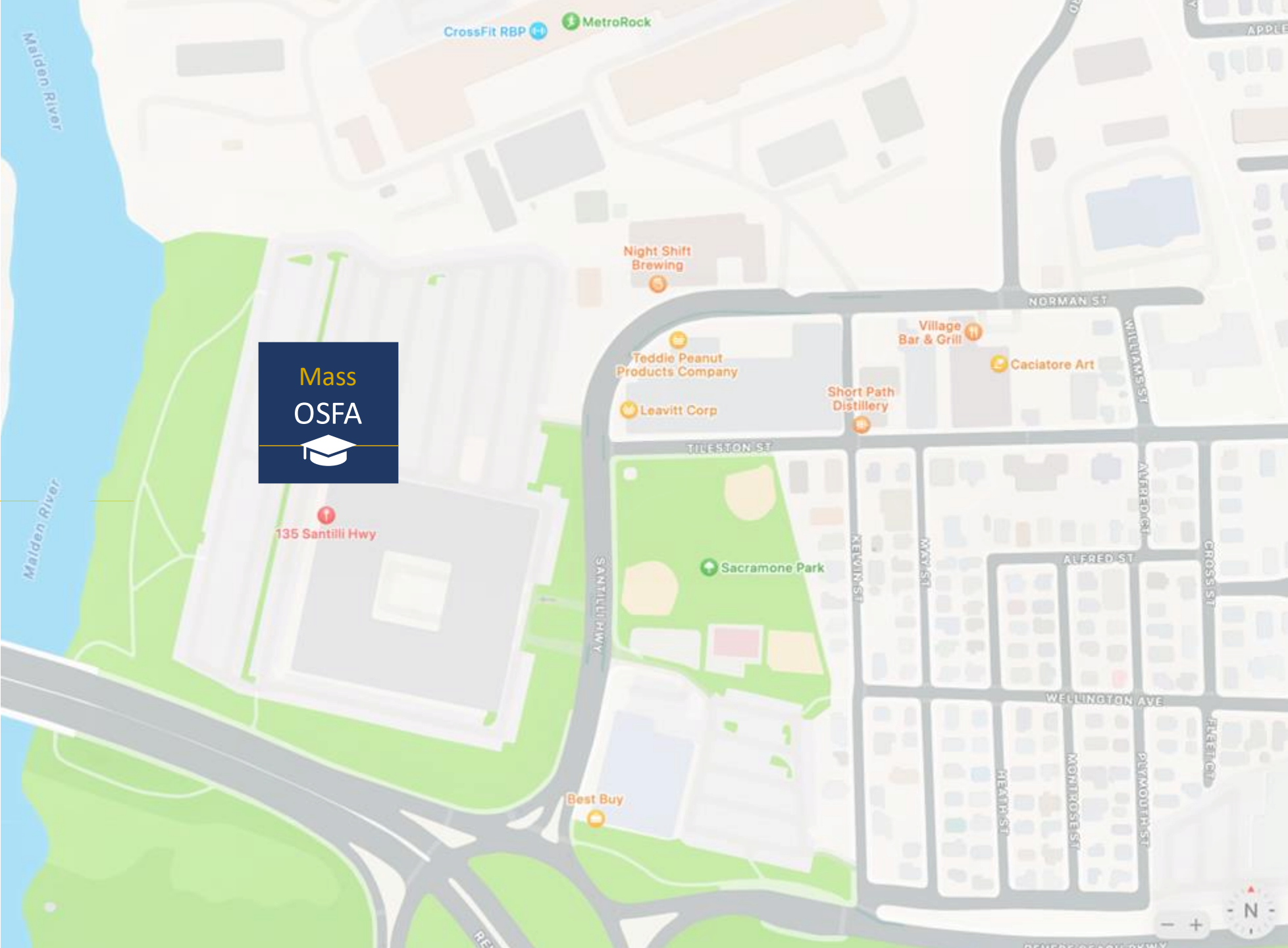


Mass
DHE





135 Santilli Hwy



The image features a light green map of Massachusetts in the background. Overlaid on the map is a dark blue rectangular box containing the text 'Mass DHE'. Below this box are four white rectangular boxes with thin black borders, arranged in two rows. The top row contains 'Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA)' on the left and 'Office of Policy (OP)' on the right. The bottom row contains 'GEAR UP' on the left and 'Communications' on the right.

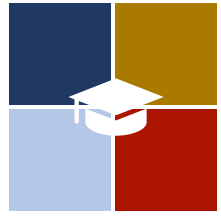
Mass
DHE

Office of Student Financial Aid
(OSFA)

Office of Policy
(OP)

GEAR UP

Communications



Meet Members of the Team



Clantha McCurdy
Senior Deputy
Commissioner,
Access & Financial Aid



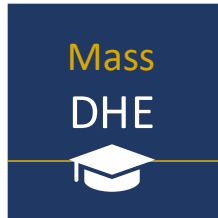
Nicole Giambusso
Director, Strategic
Communications



Robert Dais
Director, GEAR UP

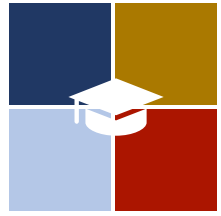


Michael Dannenberg
Deputy Commissioner, Policy



Creating Conditions for Financial Aid





Creating Conditions: MASFA Launch

The Tuition Equity Law provides access to State Financial Aid for students who cannot complete the FAFSA due to their immigration status

MASFA mimics the FAFSA and allows a pathway to state financial aid for public and private college students, to include the MASSGrant, MASSGrant Plus and MassReconnect

2023-24 MASFA launched in mid-January

389 completed or in progress

2024-25 MASFA launched on March 1

230 completed or in progress



Communications & Outreach: MASFA Launch



Workshops focused on the implementation of the Tuition Equity Law



MASFA training workshops (financial aid professionals, high school counselors and stakeholders)



Media outreach to include radio interviews, news articles, website landing page, etc



On-going collaboration with partner agencies and stakeholders, including DESE, MEFA, MIRA



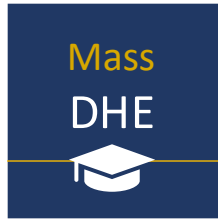
Creating Conditions: Early Allocations of State Financial Aid

- Current and continued level of investment in state financial aid requires DHE to create new structures, for both students and institutions
- Early notification will allow institutions to manage funds with greater efficiency and effectiveness in recruiting, awarding and retaining
- Represents the first time the DHE is taking this path to impact the effective management of state financial aid



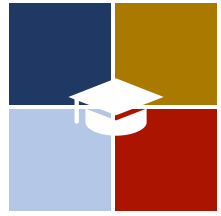
Creating Conditions: FAFSA Extension

- Responding to challenges with federal FAFSA
- Department is exploring delaying priority deadline for MassGrant



FAFSA Completion Efforts





FAFSA Completion Efforts



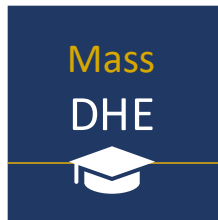
DHE granted \$1 million to implement strategies to improve FAFSA completion efforts



Partnering with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

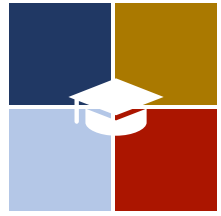


Targeting Gateway Cities and students from historically underserved populations



Partnerships & Voices from the Field





Building Community Partnerships

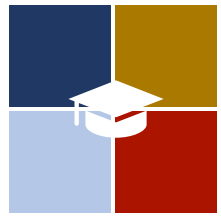
Regular meetings are held with:

mefa[®]

dese

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

MA4EC
MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE
FOR EARLY COLLEGE



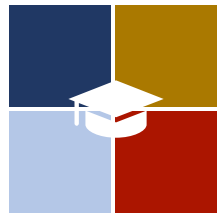
Building Community Partnerships

Helping students to persevere through completing the FAFSA or MASFA

Emphasizing the availability of historic levels of state financial aid

- MASSGrant: Public and private institutions of higher education
- MASSGrant Plus Expansion: Public colleges and universities
 - Pell Grant-eligible students receive free tuition and fees, \$1,200 allowance for books and supplies
 - Out of pocket costs reduced by up to half for middle income students (adjusted gross income between \$73,000 and \$100,000 annually)

Ensuring messaging alignment



Spring 2024 Priorities

Reach students with messaging about FAFSA and MASFA completion, financial aid opportunities, through:

School
Counselors



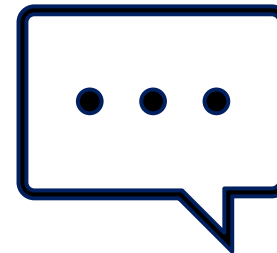
One-Pager



Web updates
and social media

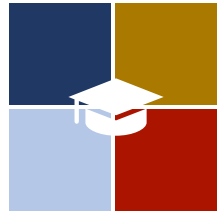


Messaging



News Outlets





Looking Ahead



Building team



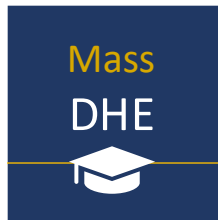
Web and social ads



Continued collaboration with partners



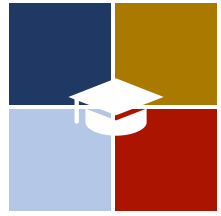
Assessment of print needs



Financial Aid Redesign



- Noe Ortega, Commissioner
- Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner
- Michael Dannenberg, Deputy Commissioner for Policy
- Mario Delci, Associate Commissioner for Research & Planning
- Emily House, Consultant (former Tennessee Commissioner)
- EY Parthenon – Technical Assistance Support



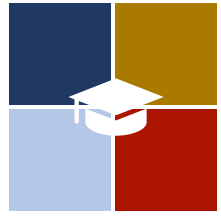
Over 50 State Tuition Remission, Grant, Loan Forgiveness, & Tax Programs

Tuition Remission & Waiver

- DCF Foster & Adopted Children
- Need-Based Tuition Waiver
- Koplik Certificate of Mastery
- Categorical (Veteran, Native Am, Seniors)
- Valedictorian Tuition Waiver
- MassTransfer Tuition Waiver Program
- Washington Center Program Waiver
- MEFA Prepaid Tuition Waiver
- Graduate Tuition Waiver
- Paul Tsongas Scholarship
- UMASS Artistic & Athletic Talent Program
- UMASS Exchange Program
- UMASS Athletic Program
- Cooperative Ass'n States Scholarship
- Incentive Program for Aspiring Teachers
- Career Advancement Program
- High Tech Scholar / Intern Program
- Mass Program of Fallen Service Members
- Children of September 11 Victims

Grants / Scholarships

- MASSGrant
- MassGrant Plus
- MASSGrant Plus Expansion
- MassReconnect
- Cash Grant
- Part-Time Grant
- Gilbert Matching Grant
- Nursing Scholarship - Community College
- Christian Herter Scholarship
- John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
- DCF Foster & Adopted Fee Tuition Assistance
- Foster Child Grant
- Public Service Grant
- Commonwealth Commitment
- Washington Center Scholarship
- One Family, Inc. Scholarship
- National Guard Tuition Fee Assistance



Over 50 State Tuition Remission, Loan Forgiveness, & Tax Programs

Grants / Scholarships

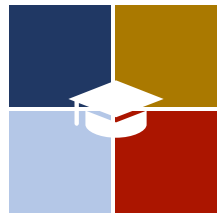
- High Demand Scholarship
- Early Childhood Educators Scholarship
- Tomorrow's Teacher Scholarship Program
- In-Demand Scholarship
- Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant
- State University Incentive Internship Program
- Emergency Fund
- Completion Grant
- Comm Coll Civic Engagement Internship
- Chief Justice Ralph Gant Judicial Scholarship

Loan Forgiveness & Tax Policies

Tomorrow's Teachers Loan Repayment
No Interest Loan
529 Tax Deduction
Tuition and Fee Tax Deduction
Tax Free Capital Gains

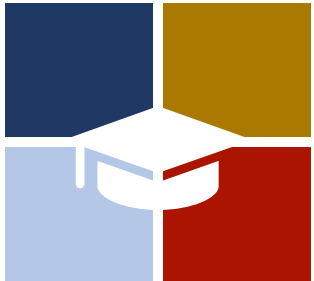
- There are approximately 200,000 undergraduate students enrolled in Massachusetts public colleges and universities. There are another more than 200,000 in independent institutions.
- At least 34 state financial aid programs each serve fewer than 10,000 students. Over 20 have less than 2,000 recipients.
- At least 24 state financial aid programs are **not** based on economic need.
- At least 16 programs have a median award value below \$2,000.

1. No Harm to Current Recipients
2. Simple, Transparent, & Reliable
3. Prioritize Needy Students & Socioeconomic Mobility
4. Increase Access & Affordability
5. Promote Certificate & Degree Completion

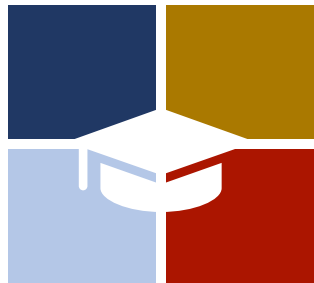


Schedule

Time	Objective
Feb - March	Secure Consultants; Complete Taxonomy; Identify Goals/Principles
April - Aug	Conduct Analyses
Sept - Dec	Develop Options
Jan – Mar 2025	Consult Advocates, Experts, & Stakeholders (Including the ACs of the BHE)
April - May	Share Recommendations
June 2025	Prepare for Implementation to Launch Programs in Fall of 2026



Questions or Comments?



Thank You.
