Finance and Administrative Policy Advisory Council (FAAP AC)

Strategic Review of Public Higher Education Financing: Establishing a current state baseline

March 8th, 2022

Project Update

Phase 1, which focused on establishing a current state baseline, is concluding



- Baseline understanding of how public higher education in MA is financed now:
- Existing policies / legislation / funding formulas for higher ed
- Sources of funding (federal, state, direct from students including student debt) and trends over time, by segment and by institution
- Enrollment trends over time, by segment and institution

2 Comparative analysis

- ► Selection of states to include in comparison
- ► Relevant comparison analytics, e.g.:
 - Financing strategies
 - State funding levels and funding models
 - Student outcomes

Scenario 3 development & assessment

- ➤ Scenarios of potential impacts of major change vectors on students, institutions, workforce, and higher ed financing:
 - Demographic shifts in MA/region
 - COVID-19
 - Potential federal policy changes

Student impact analysis

- ► Analysis of studentlevel funding (federal Pell grants, state MASSGrant Plus)
- ► Analysis of student impacts, overall and by subgroup, and in the context of the DHE's Equity Agenda, e.g.:
 - Access (matriculation)
 - Affordability (trends in student debt to pay for higher education)
 - Outcomes (retention, graduation)

Alternative 5 financing approaches

- ► Identification of alternative approaches to public financing of higher education
- ► Assessment of impacts of these alternatives on:
 - Students
 - Institutions
 - Workforce / regional economy
 - Innovation
 - Costs

Commonwealth's Vision for the System of Public Higher Education Financing

Guiding principles can help shape the public higher education financing system

System advances student access to high quality, affordable education

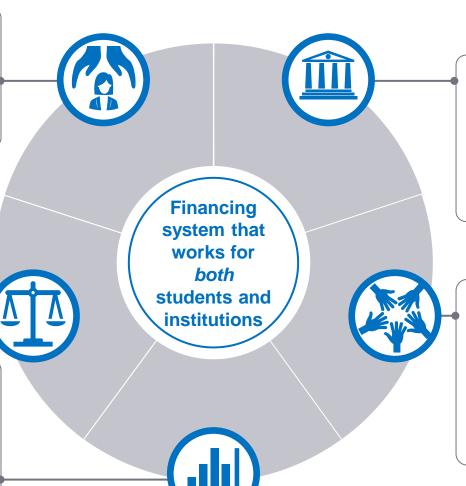
The system supports students from all backgrounds in accessing and affording high quality higher education

System promotes equity in student outcomes

The system supports bridging gaps in retention, graduation, and post-grad outcomes (e.g., student success and employment) by student subgroup

System is transparent and rooted in data, providing stakeholders with sufficient ability to plan

The drivers of state funding are clear and well understood by institutions, students, parents, and policymakers, allowing them to plan based on known parameters



System recognizes institutional context

The system takes into account institutional missions, contexts, and regional geography, including diversity of student populations and distinct needs

System recognizes innovation and collaboration

The system fosters innovation and collaboration to meet student success goals, including collaboration within segments, regions, and with outside stakeholders such as K-12 and industry

Executive Summary

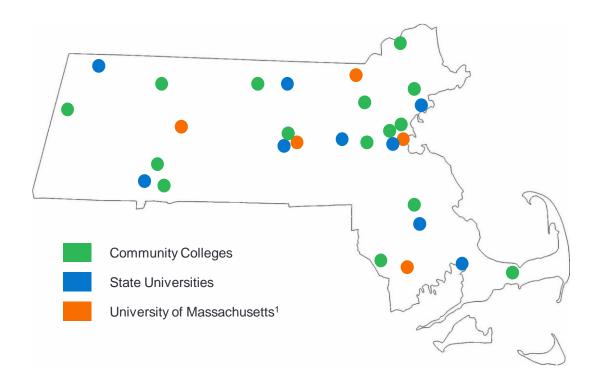
Current state baseline – highlights

- Public higher education in Massachusetts is comprised of three distinct segments (community colleges, state universities, and the UMass System) with different missions, student bodies, and funding dynamics.
- ▶ Over the last ~15 years, these three segments have **served ~70% of Massachusetts residents** choosing to enroll in post-secondary education in higher education institutions located in the Commonwealth. In-state students account for 87% of all students enrolled in public higher education institutions in Massachusetts (fall 2020).
- ▶ Today, the state contributes ~\$1.9 billion annually to public higher education in Massachusetts. Over 80% is provided directly to institutions in large block grants or fringe benefits. Over the last 20 years, the state's support has been highly cyclical, with recent funding surpassing the high water mark of FY01 in real dollars.
- Significant shifts in public higher education enrollment have occurred over the last twenty years:
 - After increasing steadily in the first decade of that timeframe, enrollments have been declining overall.
 - ▶ The mix of FTE enrollments by segment has shifted. The share of MA residents served by public higher ed has decreased for community colleges, increased for UMass, and stayed relatively constant for state universities.
 - ▶ The **student population has become increasingly diverse**, with the proportion of under-represented minorities enrolled increasing across all segments, but most significantly at community colleges.
- ▶ Despite these enrollment shifts, relative state funding allocations have remained static across segments.
- ▶ This has resulted in **substantially different funding models by segment**, with community colleges relying most heavily on state funding and federal funding (most of which is Pell grants for students attending community colleges) and state universities and UMass relying more on tuition and fees as a funding source.

Executive Summary



MA public higher education institutions serve ~244k students (or ~151k on a full-time equivalent basis) annually across 28 institutions, organized into three distinct segments



Metric (FY21)	Community Colleges (15)	State Universities (9)	UMass System (4)¹	Total (28)
Credit- bearing Headcount ²	~97k	~59k	~88k	~244k
Full-Time Enrollment (FTE)	~42k	~40k	~69k	~151k
% Undergrad FTE	100%	82%	80%	86%
% Graduate FTE	0%	18%	20%	14%

Community colleges also serve a significant portion of non-credit bearing students. Non-credit bearing students are omitted from this analysis

^{1.} For the purpose of this analysis, UMass Medical School has been omitted from the metrics

^{2.} Community colleges serve a significant number of students who are non-credit bearing. Source: HEIRS

Executive Summary

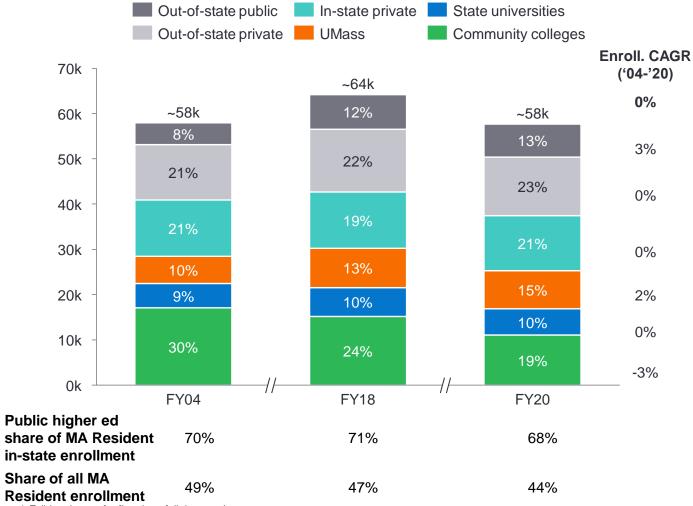
This presentation relies on data from the Commonwealth's information systems, supplemented with the Integrated Post-secondary Data System (IPEDS)

Data sources					
Topic	Source		Last year		
MA public higher education TOTAL REVENUE by source	Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS)		2020		
State Funding	MA Management Accounting and Reporting System (MMARS), MA Department of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM)		2021		
Fringe Rates	MA Comptroller's Office		2021		
UMass Revenue	UMass Internal Data		2021		
Student Enrollment	MA Higher Education Information Resource System (HEIRS)		2021		
Student Demographics	MA Higher Education Information Resource System (HEIRS)		2020		
Financial Aid by Institution and Institution Segment (MA Residents)	Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, Financial Aid File	2017	2020		

Vital Role of Higher Education

The state's public colleges and universities serve ~70% of Massachusetts residents attending college in state; this has remained relatively constant over time, with some shift in segment mix





Additional Highlights

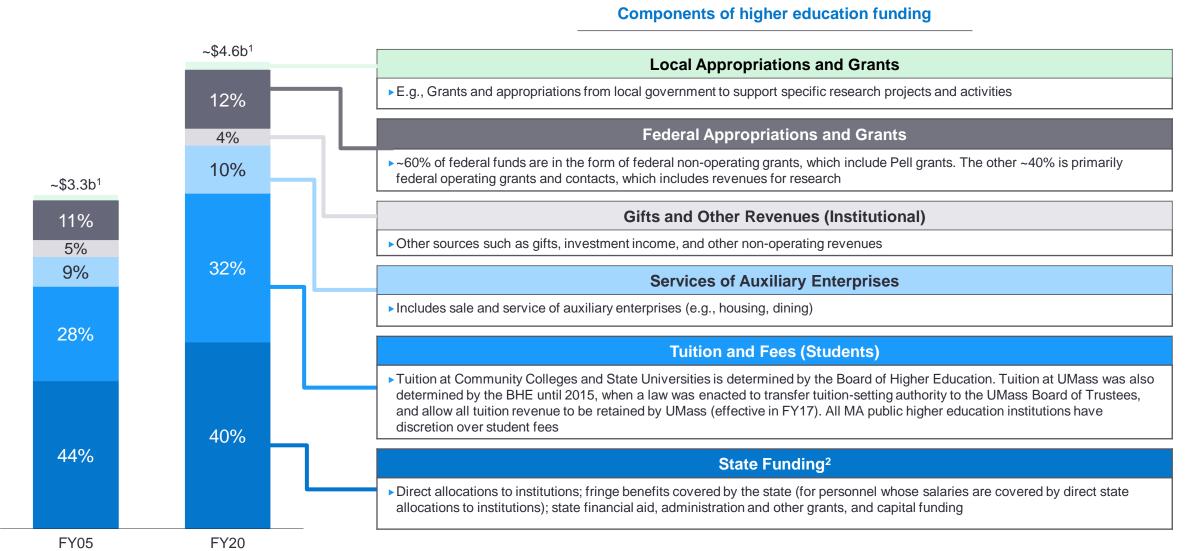
- ► MA ranks #1 for post-high school attainment rates at 60% vs. national average of 45%
- ► MA ranks #3 in post-secondary enrollment at 53% for 18-24 year-olds, and has been in the top 3 states in the last five years
- ► Among MA residents attending college in state, nearly 70% do so at a public institution.
- ► In-state students account for 87% of all students enrolled in public higher education institutions in Massachusetts.²
- ▶ A significantly larger share of graduates from MA public institutions remain in the state and contribute to the workforce: Over 65% of 2008 graduates of MA public institutions were employed in MA 10 years after graduation compared to 40% of graduates of MA private institutions

^{1.} Fall headcount for first-time, full-time students

^{2.} In-state students accounted for 87% of Fall 2020 headcount for public institutions

Sources of Financing for MA Public Higher Education: Overview

Total funding for MA public higher education is ~\$4.6b, of which 40% is state contributions¹



^{1.} All dollar figures in 2020 dollars; UMass Medical School has been omitted from the metrics

^{2.}State funding includes state appropriations, fringe, state financial aid, DHE administration and other grants and capital Source: MMARS; DCAM; IPEDS; UMass Internal Data

Sources of Financing for MA Public Higher Education: State Funding Detail



Today, the state of Massachusetts contributes ~\$1.9 billion annually to financing public higher education. ~84% of this amount is in direct block grants to institutions or in fringe benefits

Total state funding for public higher education, by category

In FY21, public higher education in Massachusetts received ~\$1.9 billion in state funding

Institutional allocations

\$1.2 billion

Institutional allocations are single line item amounts received by individual institutions¹ for current expenses, not specific projects or programs

Direct to institutions

Fringe benefits

\$430 million

FY21 fringe rate of ~36% is applied to state appropriations. The funds are used to cover state employee benefits

Payments covered by the state for institutions

State financial aid programs

\$130 million²

State financial aid covers all programs through which the state awards money to provide financial aid for higher education

~30% direct to students ~70% in allocations to institutions for disbursements to students

Main Focus of the Current State Analysis

Administration and other grants

\$34 million

Administration and other grants includes funding the department of higher education and grants for other non-operating projects and initiatives

Administrative and projectspecific funding; ~60% direct to institutions

Capital funding³

\$153 million

Capital funding includes funds intended primarily for acquisition or construction of capital assets for higher education institutions

Overall funding level set by the Governor, institutions then apply for funding for projects

Page 9

[.] UMass receives one institutional allocation to fund all campuses; UMass Medical is excluded from this analysis

^{2.} Includes an estimate for total waivers to students attending public institutions (excluding UMass waivers) and for the portion of MASSGrant awarded to students attending private institutions based on FY20 actuals

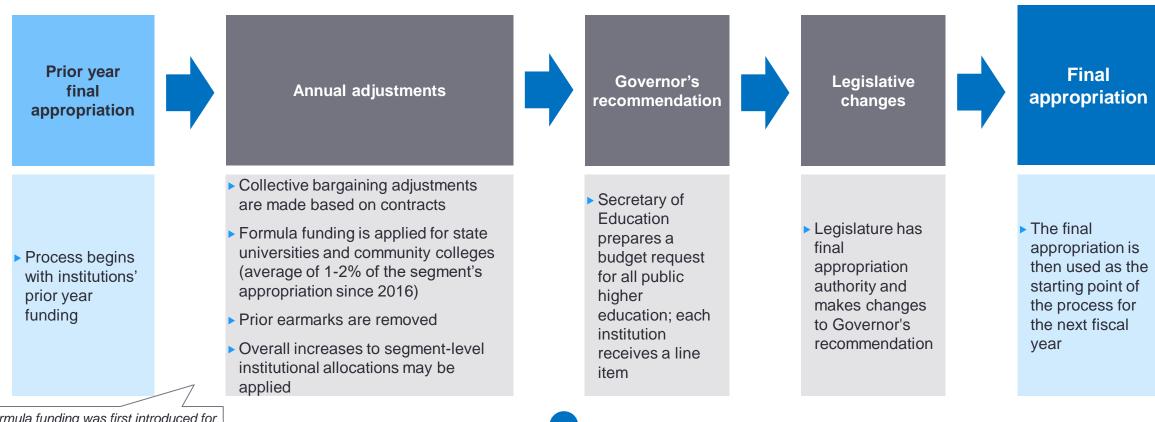
^{3.} Capital Funding is calculated based on estimated bond funding from DCAM; excludes capital funding specifically for UMass Medical School, but includes general capital for the entire UMass system Source: MMARS: DCAM: UMass Internal Data

Sources of Financing for MA Public Higher Education: Institutional Allocation Process



The ~ \$1.2 billion in state contributions made directly to public higher education institutions is allocated based on incremental adjustments to prior year's allocations

During major economic events (e.g., recessions) this process does not hold in MA



Formula funding was first introduced for community colleges and state universities in 2013 and 2015, respectively. Peak funding was \$20m for CCs in 2014 and \$8m for SUs in 2015, but has been between \$0 and \$2.75m for the past five years

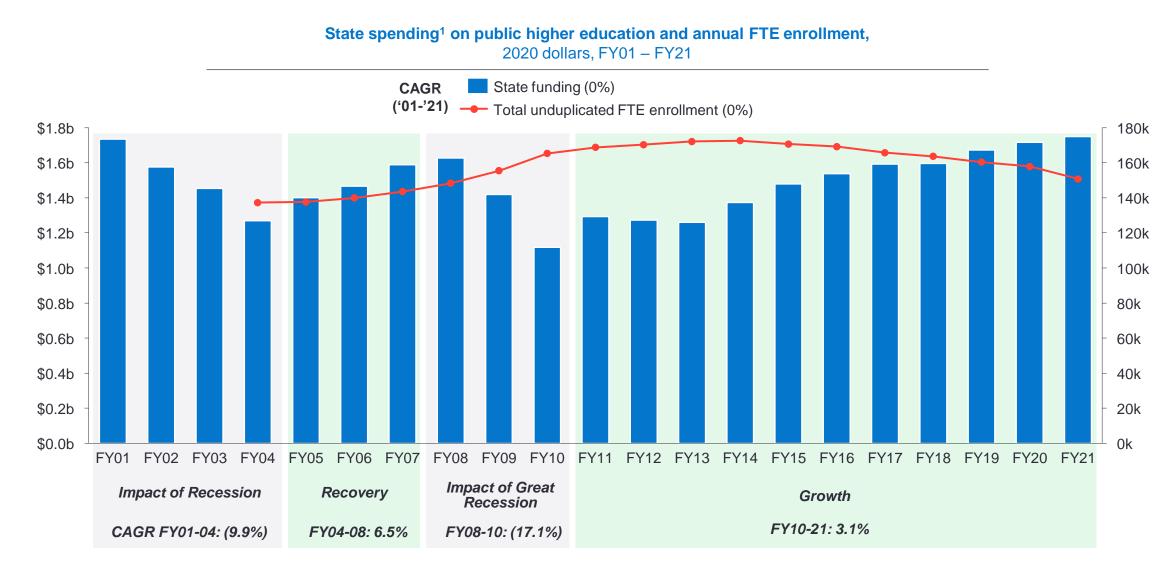
The prior year's appropriation, has on average accounted for ~98% of the final appropriation over the past 5 years

Source: MMARS; interviews with state experts
Page 10

State Funding Trends: FY01-FY21



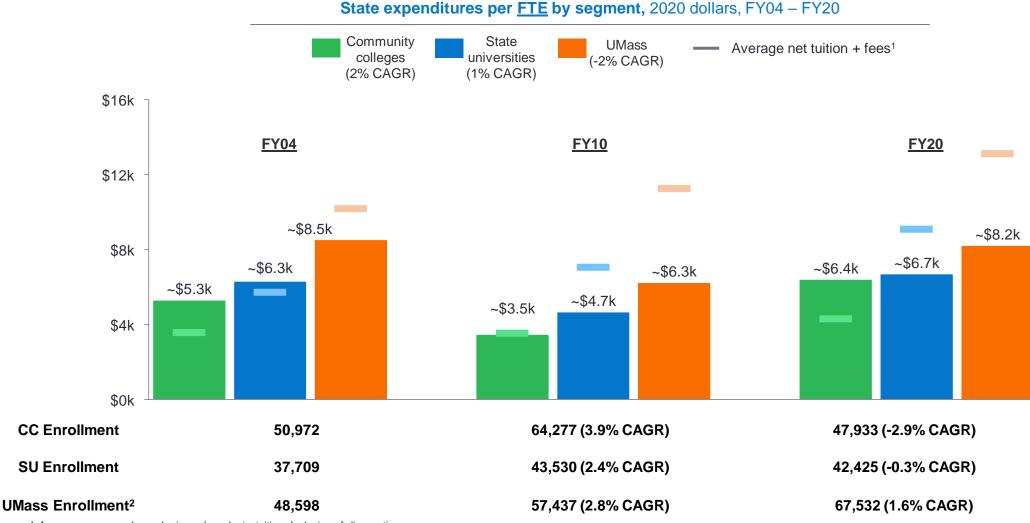
Over the last 20 years, state support for public higher education has been highly cyclical in real dollars, reflecting the economic environment



^{1.} Capital funding excluded from total state funding for the purposes of this trend analysis Note: All dollar figures in 2020 dollars

Source: MMARS; HEIRS; UMass Internal Data Page 11

Because of the cyclicality of state funding and the big shifts in student enrollment, the amount of state spending per FTE has changed at very different rates across segments



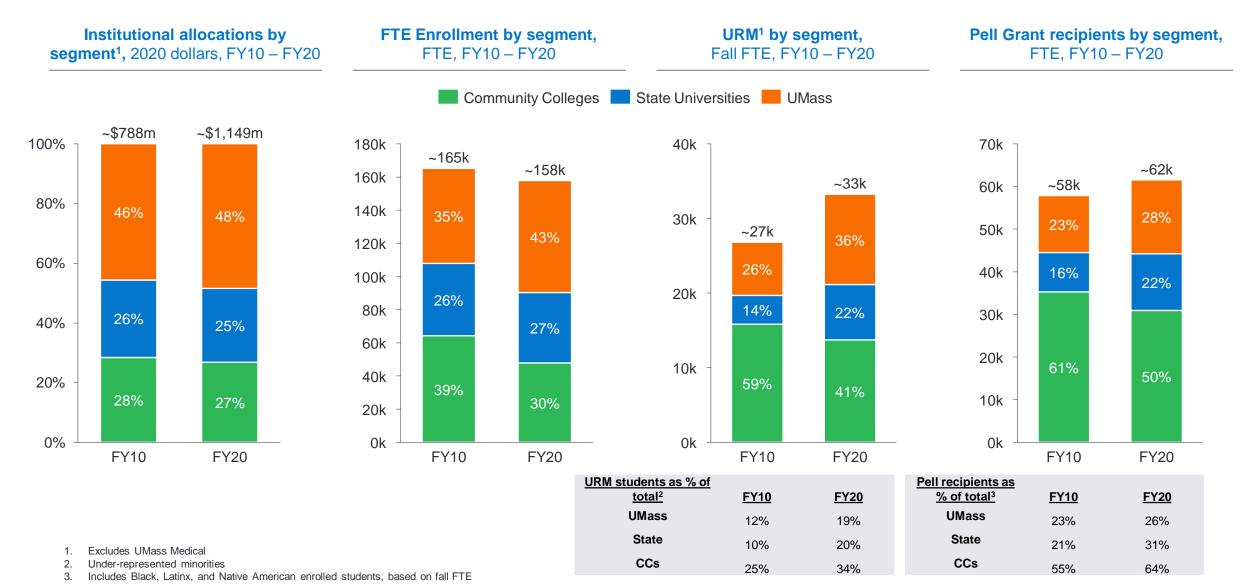
^{1.} Average across undergraduate and graduate tuition; Inclusive of discounting

^{2.} Excludes UMass Medical School

State Funding Trends: By Institution Segment, FY20 vs. FY10

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Distribution of state funds has remained relatively similar by segment. It does not appear correlated with volume (overall enrollment) changes or student characteristics / needs

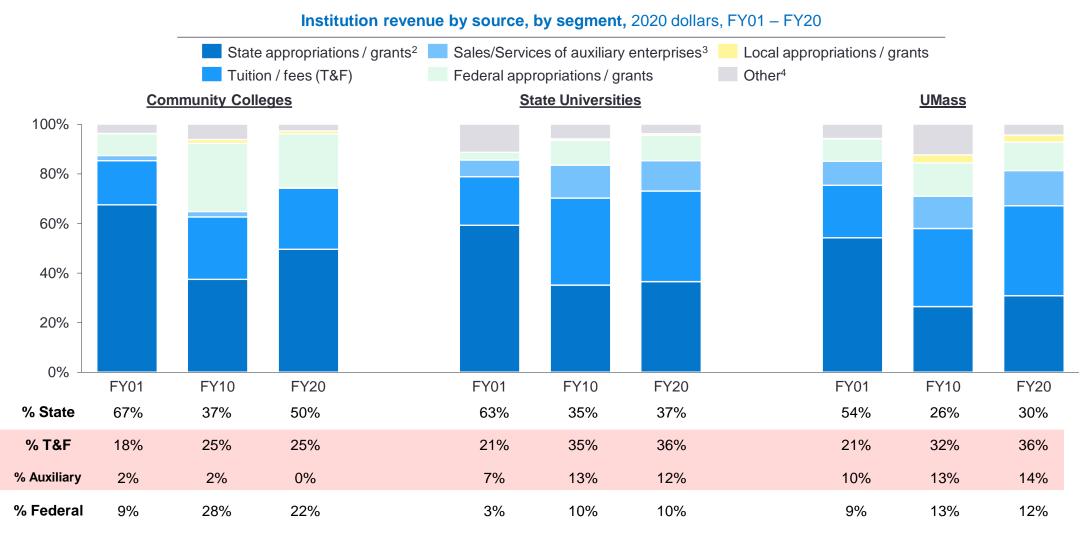


Source: MMARS: HEIRS: IPEDS: UMass Internal Data

State Funding Trends: Institutional / Segment Response, FY01-FY20



In response to fluctuations in state funding, institutions developed varying operating models by segment, with all segments relying more on student-driven revenues over time



^{1.} UMass revenue figures exclude the medical school

^{2.} State appropriations / grants includes fringe benefits and excludes capital funding and financial aid

^{3.} Sales of auxiliary includes revenue from residence halls, food services, athletics, and other student services

^{4.} Other includes sources such as gifts, investment income, and other non-operating revenues Source: IPEDS; MMARS; MA Comptroller's Office; UMass Internal Data

While public higher education institutions have begun to rely more heavily over time on student tuition and fees, MA residents have been able to access three forms of financial aid

Financial aid sources for Massachusetts residents at public institutions, FY20

Federal

FY20 Aid

Description

~\$284m

State

~\$117m

Institutional

~\$401m

- Students complete a FAFSA, which is used to determine eligibility for all need based aid
- ► The most common form of federal aid is a Pell Grant, making up ~98% of total federal aid
- Other grants include TEACH Grants, Federal Work Study and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants

~30%

Direct aid to students:

Aid awarded directly to the student

Example programs:

- Early Childhood Educators Scholarship
- ▶ MASSGrant

~70%

Allocations to institutions:

Aid granted to institutions based on formulas, and then administered by the institutions based on established criteria

Example programs:

- ▶ MASSGrantPlus
- ▶ MA Cash Grant Programs

- Individual institutions award aid to students based on financial need, academic achievement (merit), or a combination of the two
- Institutions consider all federal and state aid for which a student is eligible when allocating additional institutional aid

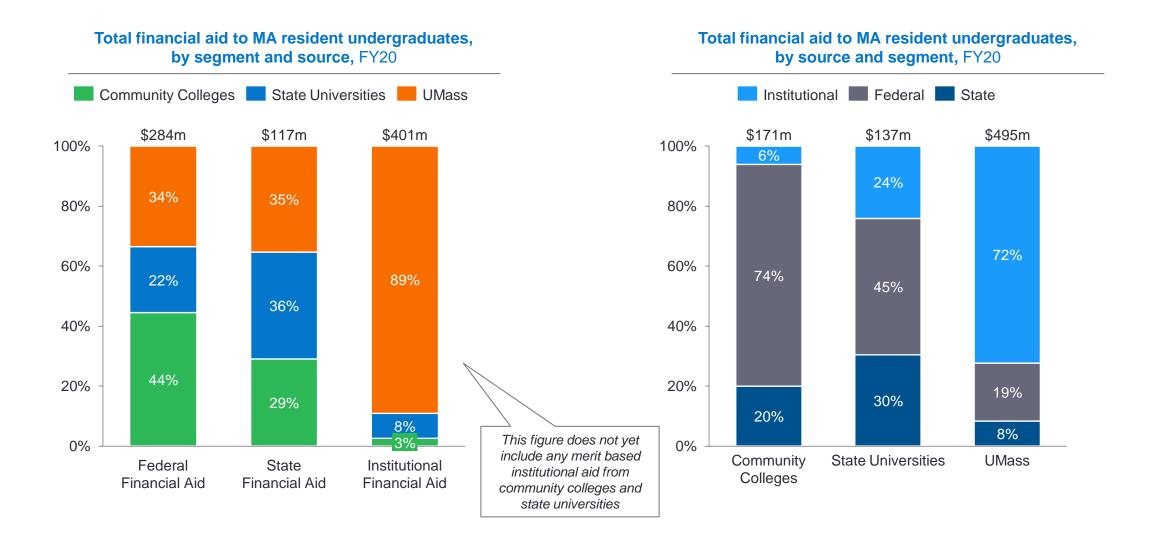
MASSGrant Plus is currently available to those attending community colleges and state universities as a "last dollar" program

This figure does not yet include any merit based institutional aid from community colleges and state universities

State Funding: Financial Aid



The role of state financial aid to students varies significantly across segments given differences in their respective student demographics and availability of institutional aid

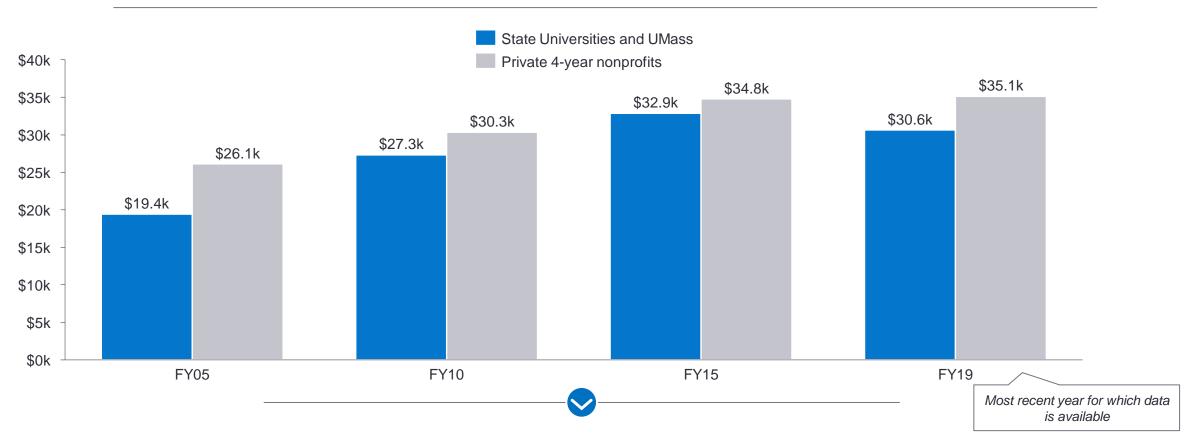


State Funding: Financial Aid



Even with access to financial aid, average debt for graduates of public 4-year colleges and universities has been increasing

Average student loan debt¹ for graduates of public and private non-profit 4-year colleges and universities in MA, 2019 dollars, FY05 – FY19



More detailed analysis of student debt and broader student impacts of financing policy will occur in later phases of this project

Source: Mass Budget / The Institute for College Access
Page 17

Average student loan debt is in 2019 dollars

Average student loan debt was calculated by taking an aggregate for states, sectors, or other groupings of colleges from college-level data of over 13,000 U.S. colleges and universities. The 4 data sources that were primarily used were IPEDS, College Scorecard, Federal Student Aid, and CDS (Peterson's).

Following this meeting...

Preliminary work will begin on the comparative state analysis

- State funding levels (e.g., total funding, funding per enrolled FTE, as % of total state spending)
- Financing strategies (e.g. input or input/volume-based, outcome-based)
- Student outcomes

The comparative state analysis will be presented at the next FAAP AC meeting (likely late April 2022)

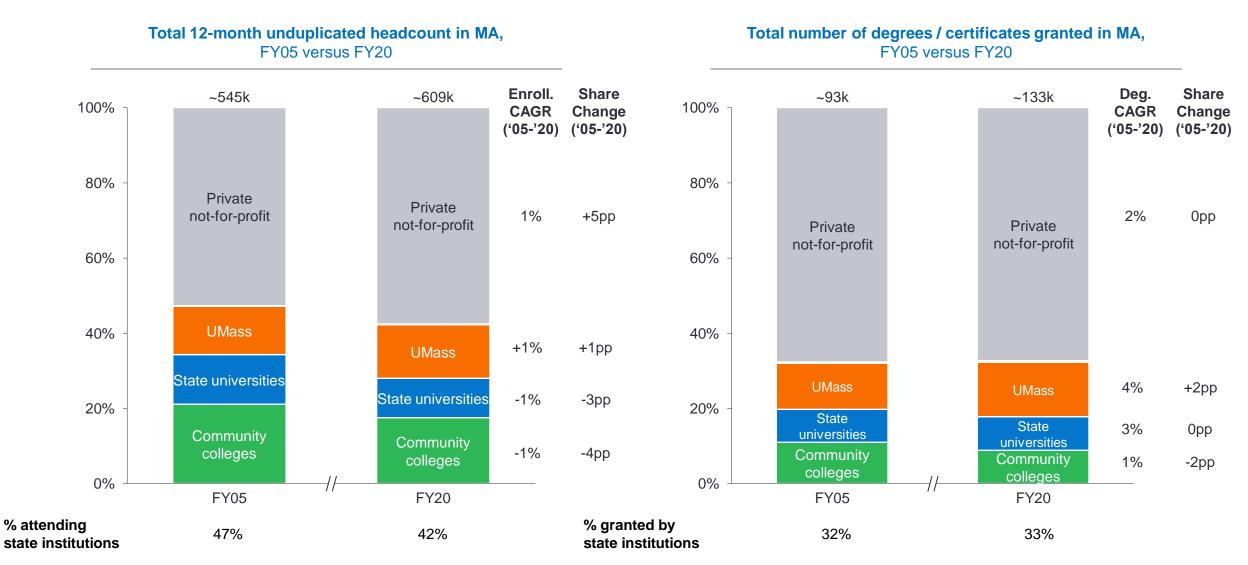
Appendix



Public Share of Higher Education

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

The Commonwealth's public institutions serve ~40% of <u>all</u> students enrolled in Massachusetts and grant ~35% of degrees



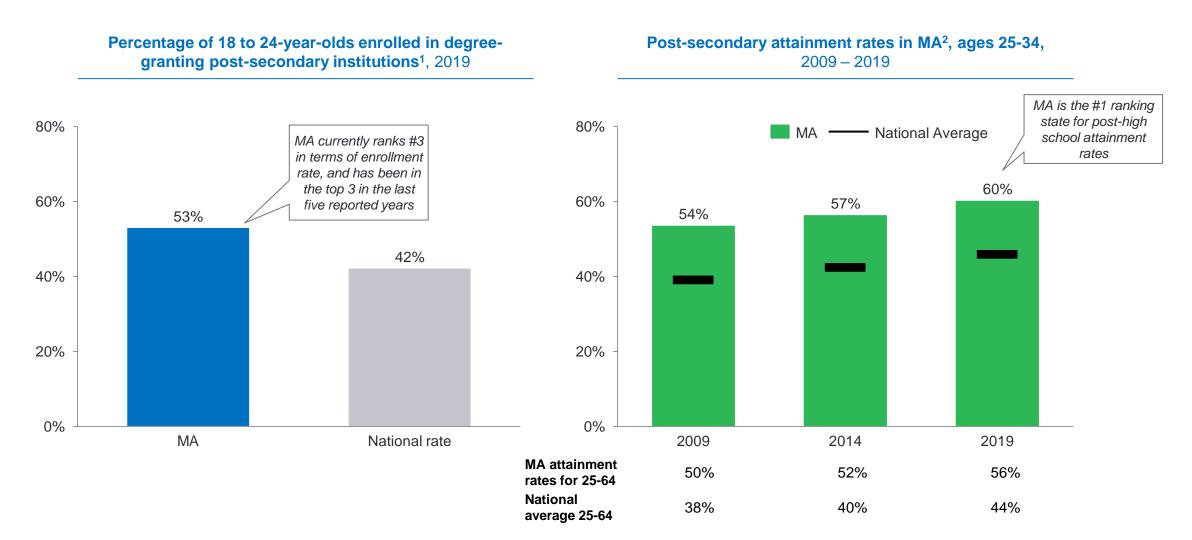
Note: Includes total enrollment in all credit-bearing degree / certificate programs

Source: IPEDS

Vital Role of Higher Education



Massachusetts ranks #3 among all states in post-secondary enrollment rates, and #1 in post-secondary educational attainment rates



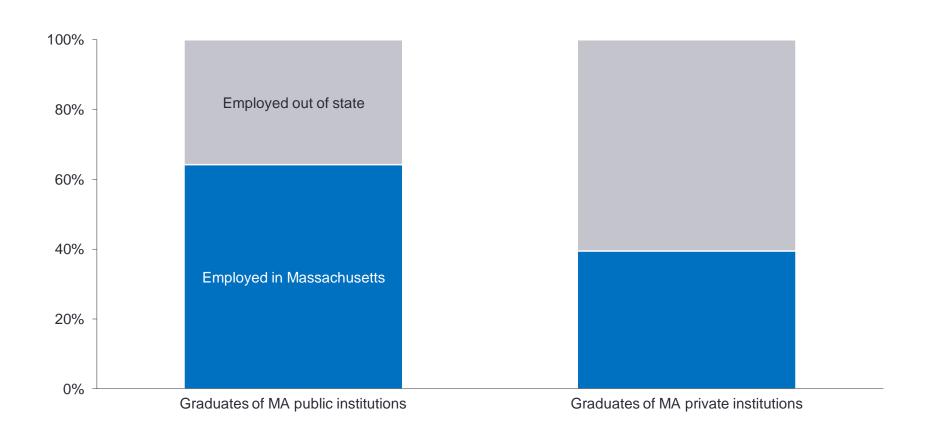
^{1.} Data are based on sample surveys of the entire population 18 to 24 years old residing within the United States

Source: NCES: Lumina Foundation: National Attainment 2009-2019

^{2.} Includes graduate or professional degrees, bachelor's degrees, associates degrees, industry-recognized certifications, but excludes short term certifications; ages 25-34

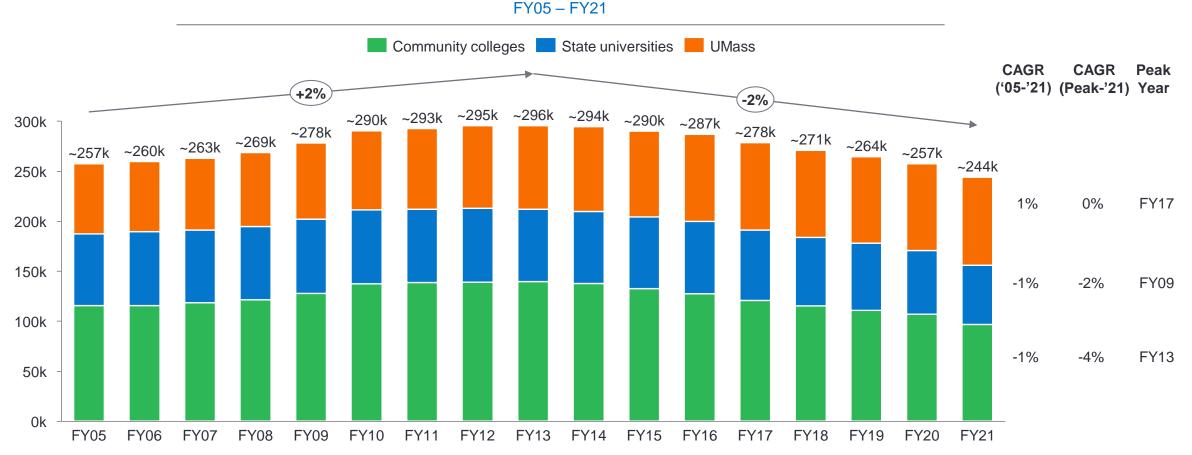
Higher education graduates are a vital part of the state economy, with a larger share of public higher education graduates staying in the state

State of employment in 2018 for class of 2008 MA college graduates



Student headcount at state universities and community colleges has been flat to declining, while enrollment has grown at UMass institutions

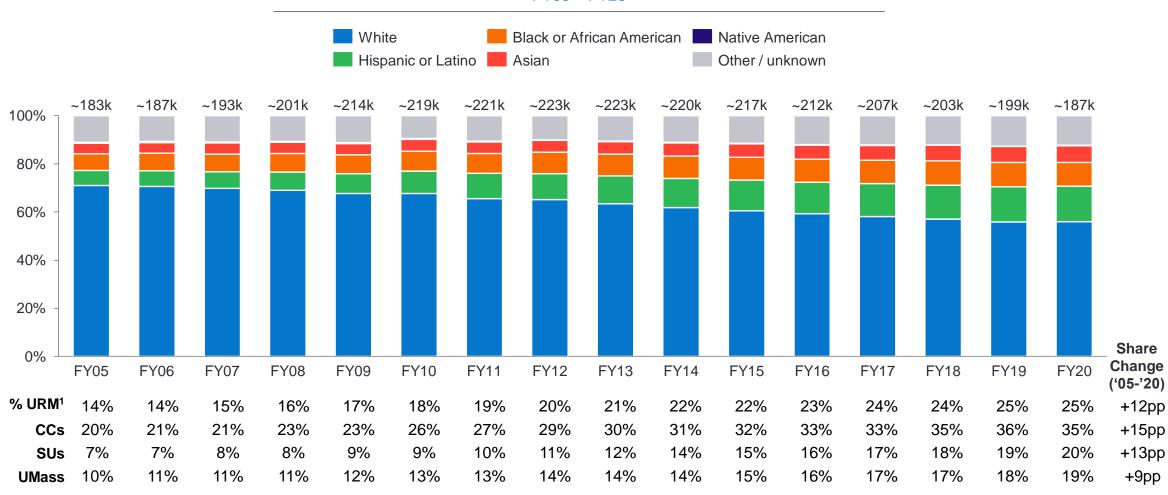
<u>Annual</u> unduplicated credit headcount for Massachusetts public institutions,



Source: HEIRS Page 23

At the same time, enrollment has become increasingly diverse; today, 1 in 4 students are underrepresented minorities

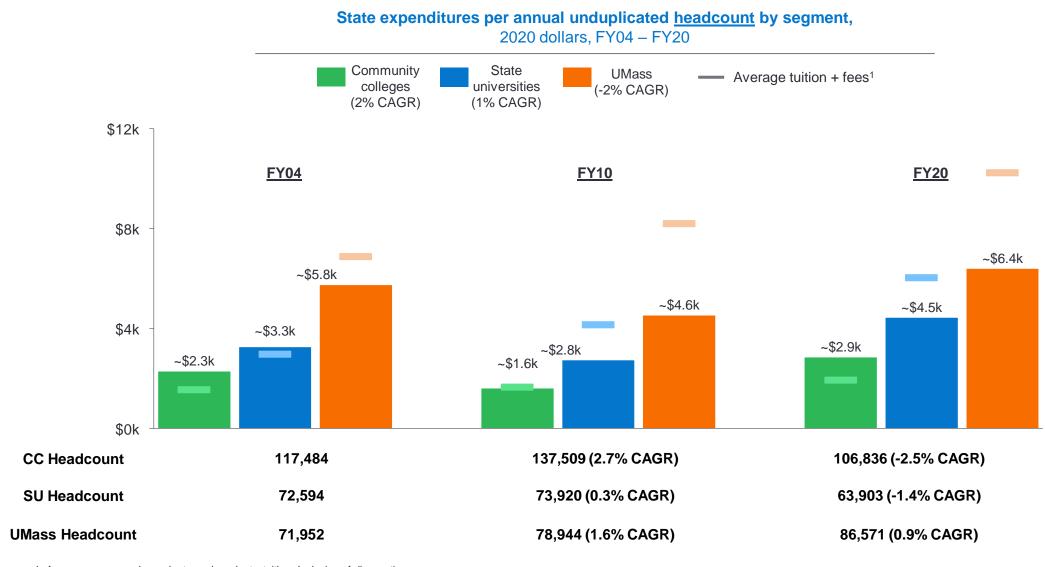




^{1.} Includes Black, Latinx, and Native American enrolled students Source: HEIRS

State Funding Trends: In \$ per Student Headcount, FY04-FY20

Because of the cyclicality of state funding and the big shifts in student enrollment, the amount of state spending per FTE has changed at very different rates across segments



^{1.} Average across undergraduate and graduate tuition; Inclusive of discounting Note: All dollar amounts in 2020 dollars and include only state institutional appropriations Source: MMARS: HEIRS; MA DHE Data Center; IPEDS, UMass Internal Data