

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 20-04

BOARD DATE: February 4, 2020

RESOLUTION ON EARLY COLLEGE FUNDING

MOVED: In January 2017, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Higher Education adopted a joint resolution to establish the Early College Joint Committee (ECJC). The ECJC has established guiding principles to approve Early College programs that prioritize equitable access and opportunity for underserved and underrepresented students. In December 2018, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) adopted the Equity Agenda as its top strategic priority. Independent research has shown that Early College programs have a positive correlation with higher college-going rates among historically underserved and low-income high school students. Massachusetts currently has 17 officially designated Early College programs across the Commonwealth serving approximately 2,000 students. In pursuance of the Equity Agenda, it is essential to grow Early College programs and through predictable and sustainable funding.

Therefore, the Board of Higher Education is committed to securing new and maximizing existing resources to ensure that appropriate levels of funding per course credit be provided to cover the higher education costs of Early College designated programs. The Commissioner of Higher Education is charged with developing annual cost estimates, and a plan for the BHE's approval, for sustainable funding for the costs of instruction for designated Early College programs

VOTED: Motion adopted by BHE 2/4/2020.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, §§ 9, 15B and 39

Contact: Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner
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