

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**MOTION NO.** BHE 25-31  
**BOARD DATE:** February 25, 2025

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**APPROVAL OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM  
GUIDELINES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education (BHE) hereby approves the attached Financial Aid Guidelines for the administration of the Early Childhood Educator Student Loan Repayment Program, as required under M.G.L. c. 15A, §19G. BHE delegates to the Commissioner the authority to move forward with implementing the provisions set forth in the proposed guidelines ("Attachment A"). The Commissioner shall provide periodic updates on the status of implementation.

**VOTED:** Motion adopted by the BHE on 2/18/2025.

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(u); M.G.L. c. 15A, §19G; M.G.L. c. 15D, §§3, 4, and 5.

Contact: Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Access and Student  
Financial Assistance  
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## Background

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 15A, §19G, the Board of Higher Education (“Board” or “BHE”), working in consultation with the Board of Early Education and Care, is charged with establishing an early education and care educator loan repayment program for early care educators pursuant to M.G.L. c 15D, §5. In response to this legislative charge, the BHE seeks to promulgate guidelines to help administer this legislatively-mandated loan program, which is funded subject to the availability of funds and appropriation from the Massachusetts Legislature under M.G.L. c. 15A, §16.<sup>1</sup>

The Program provides financial assistance to early childhood educators through the repayment of college expenses (loans) while prioritizing the recruitment and retention of a racially, culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse educator workforce. As required in the authorizing legislation, preference for loan forgiveness is given to applicants identified as early childhood educators in the Commonwealth who have displayed a proven commitment to early childhood education and who either 1) work in communities predominately serving children and families with high needs; or 2) work in regions with a shortage of early education and care slots.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 15A, §16, BHE and the Board of Early Education and Care (BEEC) are collectively charged with “promulgating...guidelines necessary to implement” the Early Childhood Educator’s Scholarship Program. At its meeting on January 15, 2025, the Board of Early Education and Care approved the Department of Higher Education’s (DHE’s) administration of the Program, and the substantive content of the proposed guidelines were shared with the BEEC for input and consultation, subject to BHE approval.

Among other things, the proposed guidelines establish “eligibility requirements” for eligible institutions and programs, set forth conditions for loan disbursement and repayment, clarify the value of such awards, and convey criteria for annual reviews and audits. Consistent with the applicable governing legislation, DHE staff closely consulted with Department of Early and Education and Care (EEC) staff in drafting and finalizing the proposed guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> The FY25 budget provides \$7.5 million for the loan repayment program.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend approval of the attached guidelines.