

Commissioner's Year-End Report



The Big Three: Statewide Priority Objectives

Our singular focus is on ensuring that public higher education system continues its historic mission of serving as a catalyst for social mobility and as a bulwark against social and income inequality. Policy decisions are driven by the expectation that **students' academic progress is our prime consideration.** To that end, Massachusetts must achieve these objectives:

- 1. Make college more accessible and affordable** for all Massachusetts residents
- 2. Close gaps** in student opportunity and achievement
- 3. Improve** college completion rates

Commissioner's Year-End Report

How We Are Achieving These Objectives

- **Fostering a more integrated system** of public higher education capable of responding to local & statewide needs
- **Elevating performance** of public higher education
- **Developing better integration** with P-12 & workforce sectors
- **Enhancing appreciation** of higher education as a central asset & competitive advantage for state
- **Incubating innovation** to ensure higher quality, better access, more affordability & alignment to needs of learners throughout life

—*Board of Higher Education Goals for FY2018*

Major Initiatives Supporting BHE Goals

- 1. Making college more accessible and affordable** for all Massachusetts residents
 - MassTransfer / Commonwealth Commitment
 - Financial Aid Redesign
(including Business Process Review)
 - Food Insecurity and Homelessness Among College Students
 - Online Learning / State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement
 - Open Educational Resources

Major Initiatives Supporting BHE Goals

2. **Closing gaps** in student opportunity and achievement

- Early College High Schools
- High Quality College and Career Pathways
- 100 Males to College
- Competency-Based Approach to Early Childhood Education

Major Initiatives Supporting BHE Goals

3. **Improving** college completion rates

- Remediation Reduction
 - Placement Standards
 - Co-Requisite at Scale
 - Developing Math Pathways
- Performance Measurement System and System-Level Data Analytics Platform
- STEM Starter Academies

Supporting FY2018 Initiatives

■ **Occupation-Specific Initiatives**

- Revision to Criminal Justice Programs and Alignment with Police Academies
- Diversifying the Teacher Workforce

■ **BHE Committee-Specific Initiatives**

- Revisions to the Program Approval Process
- Continued Evolution of Campus Strategic Planning Process

■ **Enhancing Efficiencies in DHE Operations**

- Development of Internal Control Plan
- New Strategic Capital Investment Methodology
- Development of New Policies on Closures, Mergers, and Acquisitions
- Improving the Presidential Search Process

Supporting FY2018 Initiatives

- **Additional K-12/Higher Ed Alignment**
 - Addition of Computer Science as part of MassCore and its relation to Higher Ed Admissions Standards
 - Dual Enrollment

- **Continuing Campus-based Initiatives**
 - Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
 - Civic Learning and Civil Discourse on Campus
 - Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI)
 - Tuition waivers for Puerto Rican / USVI students impacted by Hurricane Maria

Discussion