

If the Commonwealth is to compete effectively for jobs, investment and talent—and sustain our rich civic landscape—**Massachusetts needs the best-educated citizenry and workforce in the nation.** Excellence at the Commonwealth’s 29 public colleges and universities is essential to meeting these needs.

Through the Vision Project, the Commonwealth’s community colleges, state universities and University of Massachusetts have united with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in an ambitious strategic plan to strengthen our performance in educational achievement— while holding ourselves accountable to the public for results. To focus our activities and track our progress, we have identified six key educational outcomes in which Massachusetts needs to be a leader among state systems of higher education:

| MASSACHUSETTS MUST BE A NATIONAL LEADER IN THESE KEY OUTCOMES: | METRICS USED TO TRACK PROGRESS: |
|---|---|
| <p>1 COLLEGE PARTICIPATION</p> <p>Raising the percentage of high school graduates going to college—and the readiness of these students for college-level work.</p> | <p>↑ KEY College-going rates of recent Massachusetts public high school graduates</p> <p>↑ KEY % of MA public high school seniors who are college ready in math and reading, as gauged by 12th grade NAEP</p> <p><i>Additional metric:</i></p> <p>↓ % of 1st time students enrolled in remedial math, writing, and reading (not a national comparison)</p> |
| <p>2 COLLEGE COMPLETION</p> <p>Increasing the percentage of students who complete degree and certificate programs.</p> | <p>↑ KEY “Achieving the Dream” six-year success rate (Community Colleges)</p> <p>↑ KEY Six-year graduation rate, same institution (State Universities and UMass)</p> <p><i>Additional metrics:</i></p> <p>↑ Massachusetts Student Persister Success Rate (Community Colleges)</p> <p>↑ IPEDS three-year graduation rate (Community Colleges)</p> <p>↑ IPEDS four-year graduation rate (Community Colleges)</p> <p>↑ Six-year graduation rate, any institution (State Universities and UMass)</p> <p>↑ Transfer student graduation rate, same institution (State Universities and UMass)</p> |
| <p>3 STUDENT LEARNING</p> <p>Achieving higher levels of student learning through better assessment and more extensive use of assessment results.</p> | <p>↑ KEY Pass rates on professional licensure exams</p> <p><i>Additional metrics:</i></p> <p>↑ Performance on four graduate entrance exams (State Universities & UMass)</p> <p><i>Additional metric for presidential evaluations:</i></p> <p>↑ Efforts to improve learning outcomes assessment at campus and system levels, including participation in AMCOA and LEAP State Project</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>4 WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT</p> <p>Aligning occupationally oriented degree and certificate programs with the needs of statewide, regional and local employers.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KEY Alignment between degrees/certificates produced and forecasted growth in (1) key occupational areas and (2) STEM fields (not a national comparison) <p><i>Additional metric:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ <i>Retention and grad rates in (1) key occupational areas and (2) STEM fields</i> ↑ <i>Employment and/or continuing education of MA public grads (not a national comparison)</i> ● <i>Alignment of # and % of undergrad and grad students pursuing STEM degrees with projected workforce need (not a national comparison)</i> ● <i>Alignment of MA public degrees produced compared with degrees needed (not a national comparison)</i> |
| <p>5 PREPARING CITIZENS</p> <p>Providing students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be active, informed citizens.</p> | <p>New area of the Vision Project; no defined strategies or metrics yet. Broad targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coursework that includes appropriate content and conveys the value of an active, well informed citizenry in a democracy; ● Extracurricular activities that promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues and civic concerns and/or appreciation of the importance of active citizenship; and ● Experiences that build habits of participation in civic life and skills in doing so effectively. |
| <p>6 CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAPS</p> <p>Closing achievement gaps among students from different ethnic, racial and income groups in all areas of educational progress.</p> | <p>↓ KEY Gaps by race, ethnicity, gender, and income in all above outcome areas</p> |

The Vision Project goals and metrics were approved by the Board of Higher Education on May 4, 2010, and amended March 6, 2012. The first annual report on the Vision Project, *Time to Lead: The Need for Excellence in Public Higher Education*, which includes baseline data for tracking Vision Project performance, was released in September 2012. More information at www.mass.edu/visionproject.