Fostering a more integrated system of public higher education capable of responding to local and statewide needs of students, communities and employers in a coordinated way.

Elevating performance of public higher education with respect to key outcomes.

Developing better integration of public higher education with both the P–12 and workforce sectors.

Enhancing appreciation of higher education as a central asset and competitive advantage of the Commonwealth.

Incubating innovation that transcends traditional approaches to ensure higher quality, better access, more affordability and alignment to the needs of learners throughout life.

The Department’s major initiatives for the year in support of these goals include:

- **Early College Design**: Providing underserved high school students with a college experience
- **Remediation Reduction**: Ensuring that students are college-ready
- **Program Approval & Campus Strategic Planning**: Using our strategic planning authority to promote college and university excellence
- **College Affordability**: The Commonwealth Commitment, creating academic pathways and transfer opportunities, and changes to the allocation of financial aid
- **Campus Safety and Violence Prevention**: Assisting campuses in preventing violence and creating structures and processes to enhance campus safety
- **Accountability and Performance-Based Funding**: Working with the campuses to establish a metrics system that better measures campus and system progress
- **Online Learning**: State reciprocity agreements and a universal public higher education online course portal