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José Luis Santos
Interim Commissioner

Chris Gabrieli
Board Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: Financial Aid Directors

FROM: Jose Luis Santos, Interim Commissioner

DATE: November 24, 2026

SUBJECT: **Free Community College Guidelines**

This memorandum clarifies student eligibility to receive Free Community College during the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

As stated in the 2026-2027 Free Community College Guidelines:
To be eligible for the Free Community College program, a student must:

(f) have not earned a bachelor's degree (or the equivalent)

The intention of *(or the equivalent)* is expanded upon within the MASSEducate website and must be followed for the purposes of eligibility.

> "*not have earned a bachelor's degree or the equivalent (a student who has previously earned an associate degree may receive financial assistance to complete up to one additional associate degree under the MassEducate program.)*"

Should you have additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Alison Connolly, Associate Commissioner, aconnolly@dhe.mass.edu