

FARM Public Notification – Anna Maria College, Paxton, MA

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (Department) cannot confirm that the Anna Maria College has sufficient resources to be able to sustain operations at current levels and substantially fulfill its obligations to enrolled and admitted students for both the current and the subsequent academic year.

The Department is issuing this notice pursuant to the regulatory notification requirements set forth in the Department's Financial Assessment and Risk Monitoring (FARM) regulations, 610 CMR 13.04(2). More information on the Department's work in this area can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.mass.edu/strategic/farm.asp>

The Department is working closely and collaboratively with the institution to ensure that institutional leaders, including the Board of Trustees, are exploring all reasonable options and leveraging all available resources to support a long-term plan that prioritizes the best interests of students, faculty, and staff.

As required under state law, this long-term planning process includes contingency planning to establish an orderly process in case the institution decides not to sustain operations at or near current levels over the next 18 months. The Department's requirements for contingency planning include developing multiple academic options and pathways, organizing robust student support services, and communicating timely notifications to relevant stakeholders; and together, these contingency planning components seek to enable students and their families to continue their education with minimal disruption should that be required.

We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with Anna Maria College's Board of Trustees, and President Ryan and his leadership team to identify opportunities where the Department can provide additional resources and expertise, in furtherance of both organizations' strong and mutual commitment to ensure that students receive the benefits of completing their education in a timely manner.

Protecting the interests of the college community, especially students, remains the top priority of Anna Maria College and the Department.

Anna Maria College Statement

President Ryan and Anna Maria College's Board of Trustees accept the responsibilities of accreditation and regulatory oversight and welcome the engagement of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in monitoring the College's institutional health. Anna

Maria affirms its commitment to operating in full compliance with the Department's standards and to meeting the current academic needs of its students.

The College's leadership acknowledges the serious financial pressures that reflect both longstanding structural challenges in the higher education sector and the particular impact of enrollment declines on a small, tuition-dependent institution. Anna Maria has undertaken a comprehensive and systematic review of its operations and has taken steps to address those pressures. These actions included reductions in staffing and operating costs. The College recognizes that additional measures will be required and anticipates further cost reductions in FY2027 through ongoing financial viability reviews across the institution.

Meanwhile, the College's early enrollment indicators have shown some movement in a positive direction. As of March 31, 2026, Fall 2026 deposits are trending ahead of the same period in prior years, with activity across domestic, transfer, and international categories. The College is mindful that early-cycle data has limitations and will continue to monitor these trends closely.

The Board of Trustees has been fully engaged throughout this process, scheduling bi-weekly meetings with College leadership to review financials and monitor enrollment, and participating directly in meetings with the Department. The Board continues to evaluate all options available to the institution with the best interests of students as its primary consideration.

Anna Maria College has pursued its distinctive Catholic mission since 1946, and its leadership remains committed to ensuring that every currently enrolled student has the opportunity to complete their education. The College will continue to work in full cooperation with the Department as it determines the best path forward for its students and community.