

Massachusetts Early College Initiative

March 23, 2017

Launch Event

#ecil17 #EarlyCollege

Today's Goals



Celebrate the progress and success of pioneering early college efforts across this Commonwealth

Lay out the path forward for the MA Early College Initiative

What Is Early College?

Early college programs are schools that combine high school and the opportunity to earn college credit in a rigorous, highly supportive environment, thus compressing the timeframe and reducing the cost to earn an associate or bachelor's degree.

These programs:

- Have been found to have a **beneficial impact on all students**, making them more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college, persist through, and obtain a degree.
- Have been found to significantly reduce **college completion gaps** between low-income and non-low-income students, and to *close* such gaps between minority and non-minority students.
- Support the **potential of each student** to achieve postsecondary success and thrive in the career of their choice.

Sources:

Berger, Turk-Bicakci, Gareth, Knudsen, Hoshen. (2014). *Early college, continued success: Early college high school initiative impact study*. Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research.

Parthenon-EY Education Practice. (2016). *Breaking down silos to put students on the path to success: The promise of early college in Massachusetts*. Boston, MA: Ernst & Young, LLC.

Lessons from Massachusetts' Early College Pioneers

“ Through C-Town Tech, [my students] are learning content that prepares them for higher education and the workforce, they're developing soft skills that they need to be competitive with their peers, and they're going to be more confident in themselves when they move on. Because of our project-based curriculum, career development workshops, and contact with a variety of industry professionals, **our students get a clearer sense of what's out there in the world**, and that empowers them to take greater control of their futures. ”

—DINESH AYYAPPAN,
TEACHER, C-TOWN TECH,
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL &
BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

How Did We Get Here?

■ **Massachusetts has engaged in significant early college activity for years.** There are approximately 27 early college programs across the Commonwealth. Leaders in early college, some of whom you will hear from today, stress the ability of these programs to offer students increased support, higher engagement, and a direct link to individual college and career aspirations.

■ **There is also a growing body of national experience,** some from states with more ambitious policy programs to support early college in scale.

Lessons from Massachusetts' Early College Pioneers

“ With the ASC program, **it made college seem less intimidating.** It made it more approachable to handle the classes, handle the curriculum, and handle your personal life and your school work at the same time. After the program, I felt like I could go out into the workforce or into college and really be successful. It helped me build on skills that I needed for the real world and college. ”

—THADDEUS, GRADUATE,
ASC BOSTON A+ PROGRAM,
ESTABLISHED 1993

■ In January 2016, **the BESE and BHE agreed to make early college a high priority** for exploration. The boards believed that early college programs, done well, might contribute to (1) the BESE primary goal of ensuring students, particularly students underrepresented in higher education, achieve college and career readiness and (2) the BHE goal of graduating more well-prepared students across our system.

■ To determine if there was an evidence base to support policy action and, if so, to identify the best approach to moving forward, the Barr Foundation, a leading local philanthropy committed to the success of young people in the region, supported **a thorough research effort by an independent consulting organization, Parthenon-EY.** In coordination with a steering committee of leaders of our state education system and a working group of representatives from EOE, DHE, DESE, and the field, the Parthenon study found support for the creation of a state-funded early college designation. The Parthenon Early College report, available online, laid a foundation for the policy.

■ On January 24, 2017, the **BHE and BESE voted to endorse a joint resolution** establishing (1) a formal early college designation and (2) an Early College Joint Committee to oversee both the development of criteria for early college designation and the application process for programs to receive the designation.

What's Next?

■ **Legislation to enable early college,** co-sponsored by Senator Michael Moore and Representative Alice Peisch, was filed in January 2017.

■ In June 2017, the BESE and BHE will meet again to **vote on moving forward** with a final version of the early college designation. By the end of June the boards will have formally ratified the specifics of the criteria and process for designation.

Massachusetts' Early College Design Principles

Under the Early College Designation put forth by BHE and BESE, approved designated early college programs will align with the following design principles:

- **Equitable access** targeting students underrepresented in higher education
- **Well-integrated, college- and career-aligned** academic pathways
- **Robust student support**, both academic and advisory
- **Connections to career** through workplace and experiential learning experiences
- **High quality & deep partnerships** between high schools and colleges

Lessons from Massachusetts' Early College Pioneers

“ This is an alternative pathway, and so we need it to look different from the traditional high school pathway that was not working for this group of students. We need to create the buy-in that this is something different, something special. **We need to create that sense of empowerment, and have students be in control of their own destiny.** So we work with as many of the students as possible to think about what they want to achieve and how to do it. ”

—ERIC BAUMANN,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

■ Applicants will then begin to **develop proposals and formal applications**. Approved programs will be designated “Early College Schools” and be eligible to receive funding.

■ In Fall 2018, we expect that most of the initial cohort will come from existing early college programs. This, combined with the possibility of entirely new early college programs, will help **build towards the full scale** of thousands of students per high school grade.

■ **Public and private funding sources** will support the planning, implementation, and sustainability of these programs.

In Conclusion

Today marks an inflection point in the state of early college efforts in Massachusetts. **From this point forward, our vision is for healthy, high-quality growth and sustainability of partnerships** among our state's districts and high schools with our state's colleges, all aimed at giving far more students, especially first-generation college-goers, access to college completion and career success.



For more information, or to find out if there is a way for you and your organization become involved with the Early College Initiative, we would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact us through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/ecil17>

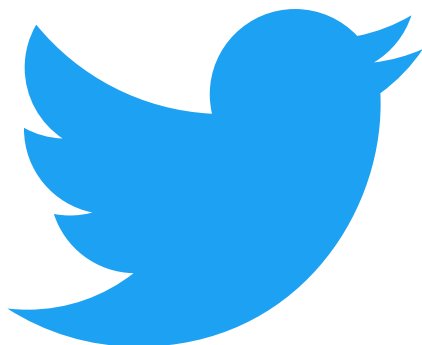
Thank You to Our Event Partners

The logo for MassINC, featuring the word "Mass" in a dark red serif font and "INC" in a bold black sans-serif font.



And to our generous hosts at the UMass Club!

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