Notice to Students Enrolled in Public Higher Education Institutions: "High School Completers" Eligibility Under the Massachusetts Tuition Equity Law

If you are an undocumented, non-U.S. citizen who has attended high school in Massachusetts for at least three years and earned a diploma (or the equivalent, such as a GED/ HiSet) in Massachusetts, you <u>may</u> be eligible for in-state tuition rates at public higher education institutions in the Commonwealth, as well as state financial aid.

Effective July 1, 2023, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has created a new pathway and expanded access to in-state tuition rates and to state financial aid by allowing all students who have attended high school in the Commonwealth for at least three years, earned a diploma or the equivalent (a GED/ HiSet) in the Commonwealth, and have met other documentation requirements to be eligible to pay the in-state tuition rate at public institutions of higher education and to have access to state financial aid (if otherwise eligible for each program). This new pathway for in-state tuition eligibility and state financial aid includes some undocumented, non-U.S. citizens.

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education has provided guidance to public colleges and universities to determine whether and which students are immediately eligible for in-state tuition rates under this new law and is developing guidelines to determine eligibility timelines for state financial aid.

The new law went into effect on July 1, 2023. If you are an enrolled student and previously were not eligible for in-state tuition or state financial aid, but, after applying and being assessed, you are now determined to be eligible under the new Tuition Equity Law, you may be eligible to have your account credited to the beginning of your currently enrolled term and, in some cases, back to July 1, 2023 for eligible costs.

Therefore, currently enrolled or newly admitted students who may qualify for in-state tuition rates as "High School Completers" under the Tuition Equity Law <u>should contact their institution's financial aid office and complete the application process</u>.

Department of Higher Education Guidelines for in-state tuition and financial aid eligibility at public and private colleges and universities have been posted and accessible here: www.mass.edu/tuitionequity.

For more information about your potential eligibility as a "High School Completer" under the Tuition Equity Law at [NAME OF COLLEGE], contact [NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION].