

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE

Statewide Early College Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

Early College Data

Dashboards Review

- Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
March- April

- Click [here](#) to register

MA EC Spring Working Summit

- Wednesday, April 14th
- Register [here](#)

Jumping into Spring 2021

Happy Spring to you all!

Though this new season will certainly bring new challenges, it also represents a time of renewal and growth. As a parent of twin high school juniors, I have been trying to guide my teens through all the typical stresses of this period of high school, but under completely atypical circumstances. Despite the frustrations and challenges, I have marveled at how so many of my sons' educators continue to adapt to support their students. As I have listened to your reflections during our virtual statewide check-ins, I know that you all are doing the same process of continual adaptation to guide your Early College students through their coursework and programming. In this "new normal" and in light of the reopening of both K-12 schools and many colleges, there is much to consider for the future. There is also still much to learn, not only about how we will carry on in the future, but how we might be able to mitigate what has been lost this past year. We know that Early College students have fought to persist, but we also know that many of these students, along with their school peers have faced remarkable challenges and too many are unsure of whether their future will indeed include college. We are dedicated to doing whatever we can at the state level to work with your programs to address this uncertainty and support these students to and through college.

This past October, we held our first virtual MA Early College Statewide Convening, which included sessions on topics such as: creating a college going culture, visualizing pathways, supporting ELL students, and more. While we were able to share out a lot of content, and some of our Early College programs presented on their work, we did not have much of an opportunity to have a lot of peer to peer interaction or to hear directly from Early College students. We are pleased to share that we were able to address both of these issues in the newly formatted Early College Spring Summit taking place in April. The summit will consist of longer thematic sessions which will include space for smaller conversations, as well as guiding questions which you can bring back to your partners and use in planning. In order to strengthen the Early College community across the state, we believe it is important to take time to learn from, and reflect with, each other. We hope you can join us on April 14th.

Be well and be safe,

Kristin Hunt, Director of Massachusetts Early College Programs along with the Early College Staff:
Rebekah Barr, Early College Program Specialist
Yaw Asante-Bio, LEE Fellow
Pierre Lucien, SDP Fellow

Early College Data

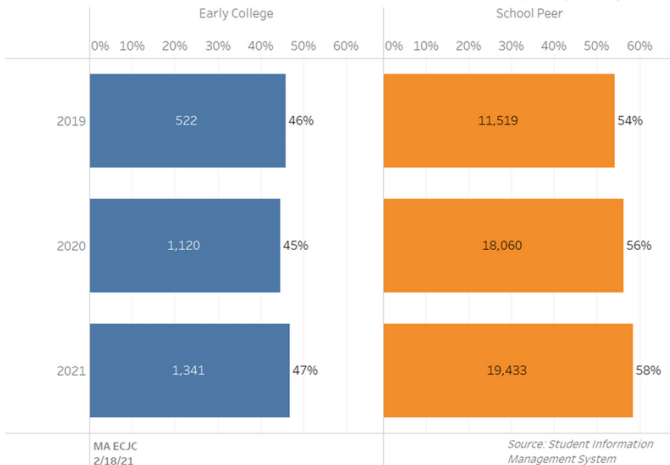
More Early College Indicators and Outcomes

On February 18 2021, SDP Fellow Pierre Lucien presented the most recent Early College data available at the Early College Joint Committee Meeting. This data largely showed that the Early College program, despite the impact of COVID-19, was able to grow in enrollment, and able to graduate a larger number of students who were college-bound. We also had second year persistence data for the first time. In every measure, Early College students had higher outcome percentages than their school peers, including MASS CORE, FAFSA, college credits earned in high school, HS graduation, college enrollment, and college persistence.

Early College demographics continue to demonstrate that the majority of students served by Early College are Black and Latinx. As programs continue or begin their Early College recruitment and enrollment for Fall 2021, two areas where Early College programs can better prioritize recruitment are among male students, and students who are economically disadvantaged. Also, when our data on college attendance is disaggregated by race and ethnicity, we are seeing that our black and Latinx students have been disproportionately impacted during this difficult year. We urge our programs to look both to the data dashboards provided by the state, as well as their own institutional data, to determine which of their Early College students may need additional interventions and supports to keep them on the path to college success.

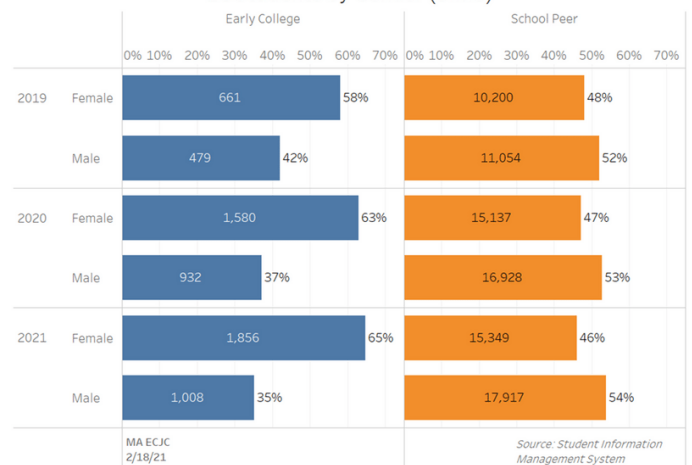
EC can recruit more economically disadvantaged students:

Percent of EC Students Economically Disadvantaged (SIMS)



EC can recruit more male students:

EC Students by Gender (SIMS)



Early College Data Dashboards

Early College Spring Data Dashboards have been created! To address any questions, we are scheduling meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays to review with individual programs. Schedule your team time here. We recommend that at least one K-12 partner and one higher ed partner be on the call. If your team is unable to make a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, contact Kristin Hunt (Kristin.e.hunt@mass.gov) to set up an alternative time.

As you know, Early College Program data is increasingly being requested and highlighted in publications both in the Commonwealth and beyond. It is important as Early College programs mature, that the data reported is accurate. We continue to strongly encourage programs to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding reporting data.

Spring Enrollment Trackers

In addition to the March SIMS data reporting, we will once again send out individual enrollment trackers to Designated programs to confirm Spring 2021 student and college credit enrollment, as well as establish initial enrollments for Fall 2021. These individualized Excel documents will be sent out via email in April.

Reminder, these enrollment trackers are used to determine the Early College tuition credits to be distributed from the Department of Higher Education to the college and university partners, at the rate of \$135 per college credit. Spring credits are currently being processed and will be received by our higher education partners soon.



Preparing for the Early College Spring Summit

We are looking forward to the Early College Spring Summit, to be held April 14, 2021. This virtual gathering will be organized a little differently than our Fall convening. This event is designed to be a working summit during which we will introduce topics related to our Early College work and facilitate guided conversations. Each session will provide guiding questions for programs to bring back to their partnerships to further conversation and planning.

Sessions this year include: Using Data to Plan and Improve Programming; Supporting Black and Latinx Students; Connections to Career: Mass Hire Boards; Revisiting Crucial Designation Criteria, and for new applicants: the Nuts and Bolts of Applying for Early College Designation. To those who have not yet registered, you may do so [here](#).

Peer to Peer Sharing: Call for Early College Schedules

In addition to our sessions, we are looking to collect a sample of Early College schedules and calendars of events. What materials do programs share out to students and families to create a cohorted and unique Early College experience? Please consider sharing with us lists and descriptions of: activities and events, tutoring and mentoring, career exploration, and advising that define what it means to be an Early College student.

We often have programs and applicants request samples, so we would like to be able to provide examples of the great work that you are doing.

To submit these calendars and schedules, please email Yaw at Yaw.Asante-Bio@mass.gov before April 12, 2021. Thank you!!!

Designation Applications

The Early College Joint Committee has officially announced the reopening of the regular Designation cycle. This cycle will open in May 2021 and will conclude in late winter 2022. It is intended for programs approved for Designation to launch in Fall 2022. Please note that we will host a session during the Early College Spring Summit specifically for programs intending to apply for Designation this cycle. To learn more about this Designation timeline, please visit the Early College webpages at DHE and DESE, located below.

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/early-college/>

<https://www.mass.edu/strategic/earlycollege.asp>

In addition, an Accelerated Designation cycle is also underway. This unique accelerated application process is limited to programs who were able to proceed with developing Early College programs despite the Designation process being paused this past year. Applicants must be in the final stages of planning their Early College program. Due to the accelerated timeline, submissions of both the Part A application and the Part B application are due April 26, 2021.

Starting next week, half hour blocks will be made available to applicants during "Early College Office hours" each Wednesday from 2 - 4pm for applying programs. To book an appointment, please register [here](#). Additional information and requirements of this application cycle, and the application survey forms, can be found at the websites listed above (see Regular Designation process).