# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  Members of the Board of Higher Education |
| **From:** | Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  Noe Ortega, Commissioner, Department of Higher Education |
| **Date:** | June 17, 2025 |
| **Subject** | Update on the Early College Five-Year Strategic Plan |

**Introduction**

The Early College initiative is a key lever in advancing the priorities of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Under the guidance of the Early College Joint Committee, DESE’s Office of Early College works with colleagues at the DHE and the Executive Office of Education to connect and support districts, high schools, and colleges in designated partnerships to give thousands of Massachusetts students pathways that are intentionally designed to lead to college completion and career success. This memo and attachment provide an update on the five-year strategic plan developed by the Office of Early College and responsive to the [joint resolution](https://www.mass.edu/bhe/documents/2024-JointMeeting-BESE-BHE/BHE-BESE%20Joint%20Resolution%20Early%20College.pdf) voted on by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Higher Education (BHE) on June 20, 2024. Please note the five-year strategic plan and its goals are being presented as an informational update per that resolution and a final plan will be presented to both Boards in the Fall.

**Draft Strategic Goals and Draft Strategic Plan Overview**

The Strategic Vision Working Group, comprised of staff from DESE and DHE, has been developing strategic goals for a new five-year plan aimed at expanding Early College participation and improving postsecondary outcomes across Massachusetts.

To ensure the goals are both ambitious and achievable, the Office of Early College conducted a rigorous data analysis. These draft goals have been shared with and refined through input from both internal and external stakeholders.

The draft goals are set within the framework of a ten-year vision that positions Early College as a core part of the high school experience. This long-term approach is designed to increase access to and success in postsecondary education, particularly for students historically underrepresented in higher education. Attached are the draft goals and the latest draft overview of the strategic plan.

Attachment: OEC Strategic Plan Overview