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| **Name of Grant Program:** Early College FY21 Implementation Grant | **Fund Code:** 462 |

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| PART III – REQUIRED PROGRAM INFORMATION |

Early College Implementation Grant Purpose

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is making this competitive grant opportunity available to either Early College programs approved for Designation in spring/summer 2020, or programs who have completed at least Part A of the Designation application in 2019-2020 and are actively developing their Early College program in adherence with the [Designation Criteria](file:///C:\Users\dzou\Desktop\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\AppData\Local\Criteria%20for%20Early%20College%20Program%20Designation_2019.pdf) provided by the Early College Joint Committee. All Designated Early College partnerships are predicated on the five guiding principles: Equitable Access, Guided Academic Pathways, Enhanced Student Support, Connections to Careers, and Effective Partnerships. the college-ready criteria, and truly envision themselves as college students. Since it is increasingly necessary to participate in postsecondary education to contribute to a 21st century economy, Early College is critical to engaging and supporting more students who may not have seen postsecondary education as a component of their future.

# Early College Program Support Grant Timeline

The Executive Office of Education, Department of Higher Education, and Department of Elementary Education invite Early College programs who were designated in spring/summer of 2020 to submit for this grant. The Departments also invite Early College programs who applied for, but did not yet receive Designation in 2019-2020, and who demonstrate a commitment to the continued development of their Early College programs to adhere to the Designation Criteria, to apply for this grant. This grant RFP will be posted in late spring of 2020 and approved programs would receive funding after the approval and dissemination of the state budget but not before July 1 2020.

**The application for a Massachusetts Early College Program Implementation Grant is due no later than 5pm on May 29, 2020.**

1. ***Fiscal Sponsor:*** Early College partners may determine which partner will be the fiscal sponsor. However, both partners are expected to work together to complete the grant application and both are expected to sign off on the budget.

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| **Fiscal Sponsor** | Name: | | |
| Title: | | |
| **Fiscal Sponsor Contact** | Preferred Phone Number: | | |
| Email Address: | | |
| **Fiscal Sponsor Contact**  **Mailing Address:** | Street Address | | |
| City | State | Zip Code |

## II. Overview of Early College Competitive Grant Application

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is committed to ensuring that all of its students complete high school ready for college and career, and that they have well-designed postsecondary and career plans to enable them to become active citizens able to earn a family-sustaining wage. Its structures for student pathways to college and career, Early College programs and Innovation Pathway programs, have been designed to support these outcomes. These pathways provide a rigorous program of study that offers contextualized learning and a student-directed college and career planning process.

The Early College Joint Committee, created in 2017 to support the development of Early College programs, approved five Guiding Principles to guide program development. All five of these principles, but particularly Equitable Access, are necessary in order to impact students in these programs. Designated programs should prioritize students underrepresented in education enrollment and completion. Programs are encouraged to make real, intentional, and thoughtful efforts to aggressively recruit students who may be the first in their family to go to college, students of color, students who may be English language learners, students with disabilities, low-income students, or students who may otherwise not yet possess a perception that they may be a college going student.

To facilitate this, programs should be structured to eliminate barriers to student participation. Design should therefore include, but not be limited to, tuition-free participation, open enrollment without regard to prior academic performance, student supports to promote success, scalability, multiple entry points for students, and student supports to prepare students for entry into the program. In order to support the development, growth, and scalability of Early College Programs, the Commonwealth is providing a competitive funding opportunity for programs who have received designation status in 2018 and have expended initial implementation funds. This funding would be used to increase equitable access and recruitment to Early College, as well as to continue to build scale and support structures under each of the five Guiding Principles so that Early College students are well informed and well supported as they pursue a minimum of twelve college credits.

* **Use of funds**: Successful applicants will specifically demonstrate in their responses below, as well as through their Designation application, how these funds from the state will support the applicants to build scale and/or expand capacity of either their Designated Early College program or program in pursuit of Designation. Applicants should signify how their EC pathway adheres to the five Guiding Principles of the designation criteria, with emphasis on Equitable Access.
* **Evaluation**: Applicants agree to participate in an evaluation process for the life of the grant, including supplying required data about students enrolled in the pathway and information about their ongoing oversight of the pathway.

Generally, applications for competitive funding will be scored based on the quality of the applicants’ plans for the use of the requested funds to promote and support the five Guiding Principles, particularly Equitable Access.

Please Note: This funding source represents an implementation stream of available dollars for the development of Early College programs. The Departments will continue to inform existing Early College programs and potential applicants of future funding sources, including those appropriated by the legislature and those available through private sources. Please also note that the Department of Higher Education Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program FY19 RFP prioritizes the use of dual enrollment funds as part of the development of an Early College program.

III. Application for Competitive Funding

**Question 1**: The Massachusetts Designated Early College program design is predicated on five Guiding Principles and their associated Designation Criteria. Using specific references to your submitted Designation applications and supplemental materials, please provide a narrative (500 word minimum) of how you plan to use these funds to meet the Designation Criteria under the five Guiding Principles. Please note that Guiding Principle 1, Equitable Access, is considered both the highest priority and is often the most difficult to achieve. Therefore, we ask that you consider it thoughtfully in this narrative. In your response, please address plans related to implementation of the following:

1. **Equitable Access** 
   1. Including, but not limited to: recruitment, enrollment, and building scale
2. **Guided Academic Pathways** 
   1. Including, but not limited to: student course sequencing, curricular alignment, and preparatory Early College course taking
3. **Enhanced Student Supports** 
   1. Including, but not limited to: tutoring, advising, and wraparound services
4. **Connections to Career** 
   1. Including, but not limited to: career exploration and counseling, career immersion activities, and incorporation of an online tool for use in college and career counseling that is recognized by the DESE in supporting the MyCAP process
5. **Effective Partnerships** 
   1. Including, but not limited to: staffing, scheduling, and coordination between all partners.

**Question 2:** Please confirm the necessary assurance related to your Early College program.

**For Designated Programs:** Please assure that your Early College program will use these funds to develop programming that meets the expectations of the Designation Criteria, as outlined in your approved application.

☐ We attest that this is true

**For Programs Working Towards Designation:** Please assure that these funds will be used to support the development of programming that meets the expectations of the Designation Criteria, as outlined in your application and supplemental materials. Please assure that your program will work with the Massachusetts Designated Early College Technical Assistance provider in the FY21 year in order to progress towards Designation.

☐ We attest that this is true