



MASSACHUSETTS

State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	Supports new and veteran teachers of AP courses who receive professional development and encourages students from low-income families to take AP courses	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Non-traditional by gender (female) • Racial and ethnic minority students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>State funds</u>; AP fee subsidy • State admissions policy provides extra weight for AP course grades
<u>Another Route to College (ARC)</u>	Yes	CTE students in community college in last half year of high school	Yes	99% of students are educationally challenged, including low-achieving students	No	Partnership with Commonwealth Corporation
Bridge Programs	Yes	Intensive programs in colleges and universities	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL students • Low-income students • Special populations including students seeking non-traditional careers 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State funding for incentives to colleges that offer bridge programs. • State policy examples: articulation initiatives aimed at underrepresented students pursuing high need careers like teaching; adult basic education to community college transition programs; and tuition waivers for children in foster care.
Career Oriented Programs for Older Youth	Yes	Dept. of Ed and Dept. of Labor; focus on getting GED and career prep, often at community colleges	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL students • Low-achieving, particularly older students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State funding • State is involved in program development
<u>Charter Schools</u>	Yes	Two types: Commonwealth charter schools and Horace Mann charter schools	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State funding • Charter school statute
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	No details known or available	Yes	Non-traditional student populations	No	
<u>Distance Learning/Virtual School</u>	Yes	Primarily community colleges	Yes	All underserved but especially non-traditional student populations	Yes	State funding for two years as start-up funding

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Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	Yes	The Dual Enrollment Program was established by the Education Reform Act of 1993. Qualified high school students earn both high school and college credit through this program.	Yes	Small pilot program in a community college with a partnership serving the following underserved students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the state does not have dual enrollment as state-funded program. • In 2006, the state received an NGA Honor states grant to prepare all students for college and careers and is working to restore a dual enrollment program under new guidelines.
Early or Middle College High Schools	No	In discussion of developing an early college high school model	No		No	
<u>GEAR UP</u>	Yes	Has served over 12,000 students since it started in the Fall of 1999; 5-year \$15.9 million award enabled the State Partnership to serve 11,600 students by 2004.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students 	Yes	Federal and state funding
GED in College Settings	Yes	Wide-spread curriculum-focused GED program	Yes	ESL students	Yes	State funding
<u>High Schools That Work</u>	Yes	Clear links to college; special grant to identify exemplary schools with postsecondary linkages	Yes	Career-oriented students	Yes	Some federal Perkins Act funding and state funding, e.g., Comprehensive School Reform, Goals 2000 district improvement, or the High School Reform grant
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	3 high schools participating	Yes	No details known or available	Yes	State admissions policy provides extra GPA weight for IB course grades.
<u>Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)</u>	Yes	Established by the Board of Education to allow students to demonstrate their performance	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students • Rural students • Urban students 	Yes	State funding
<u>Small Schools</u>	Yes	Gates-funded initiative in Boston public schools; emphasizes postsecondary linkages	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Urban students 	No	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded \$13.6 million to Boston

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<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Primarily associated with community colleges	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL students • Low-income students • Special populations including students seeking non-traditional careers 	Yes	Federal Perkins funds; extra allotment for Career Technology Education (CTE) students

Summary of academic pathways:

Among the existing academic pathways in the state, the primary emphasis has been on AP, Tech Prep, and distance learning/virtual schools. In addition, there has been a movement towards restructuring secondary education as part of public high school reform, including High Schools That Work (HSTW) and the small school initiative in the Boston area. Several emerging academic pathways serve special populations, including low-income, low-achieving, ESL, and non-traditional students.

State’s effort to encourage college prep curriculum:

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and Department of Education are working together to encourage students to enroll in a college preparatory curriculum and take more rigorous courses during high school. The initiative is just getting underway and will initially target students in the 6th and 7th grades through report card inserts that contain the “Take College Prep” and AP courses message, as well as custom newsletters aimed at parents in low achievement school districts.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Another Route to College: ARC is an alternative senior-year experience sponsored by school system and community college partners. The program is located on a community college campus. ARC provides young people with learning rich experiences that help them pass the MCAS (or other high-stakes tests), while beginning college coursework and preparing for their futures. The program is supported by the Commonwealth Corporation, a state level workforce development agency.
- Career-oriented programs for older youth
- School reforms: Small schools



Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Most academic pathways make a special attempt to reach various traditionally underserved student populations including low-income, non-traditional, low-achieving, ESL, rural, urban, and disadvantaged students. Massachusetts is one of the states that make a special effort to serve academically and socially underprivileged students. Particularly, the state is attempting to create linkages between high school and college for non-traditional and non-college bound students through bridge programs, Tech Prep, career-technical education (CTE), and GEAR UP.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

One of the state’s most recent efforts to commit to enhancing college preparation is the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), a statewide student assessment program. Most pathways are currently supported by state policy and funding, except for CLEP. Dual credit/dual enrollment programs have experienced cutbacks in state funding in recent years and are less likely to reach out to underserved student populations.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- A single pathway is not necessarily the best fit for all students.
• Collaboration between secondary and postsecondary education for aligned curriculum frameworks and P-16 initiatives is essential to the success of student transition to college.
• Collaboration deemphasizes gaps and silos between secondary and postsecondary education.
• More need-based financial aid should be provided.
• Tech Prep and other related initiatives rely on collaborative relationships.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include Another Route to College, Tech Prep, etc.

State official’s contact information:

Table with 5 columns: Name, Title, Agency, E-mail, Phone. Rows include *Martha Hass, Aundrea Kelley, *Patricia Plummer.

(Prepared by Eunyoung Kim/ Updated February, 2006/ *State official reviewed this state profile.)