

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
JOINT RESOLUTION**

NO.: BHE 24-63

BESE

BOARD DATE: June 20, 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION REGARDING EARLY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLANNING

MOVED: The Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Higher Education (BHE) (collectively “the Boards”) receive the June 18, 2024 Joint Early College Memorandum and Presentation from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Acting Commissioner Johnston and Department of Higher Education (DHE) Commissioner Ortega. The Boards express their appreciation to the Commissioners, the members of the Early College Joint Committee (ECJC), and support staff from DESE, the DHE, and the Office of Early College at DESE.



The Boards affirm their shared commitment to helping students attain the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to succeed in college and careers, be engaged citizens, and lead productive and fulfilling lives. The Boards recognize that early college programming that allows high school students to experience and complete college level academic work and reduce the time and expense of earning a college credential can be a powerful tool to achieve the Commonwealth’s overall goals for educational achievement.

The Boards receive the draft Early College initiative timelines and deliverables as set forth in Appendix A in the June 1, 2024 memorandum and charge their respective Commissioners to work with and through the ECJC to continue to refine and advance the draft Early College initiative timelines and deliverables for the purpose of developing a 5- to 10-year strategic plan which shall:

1. include specific, quantitative enrollment levels to expand early college access and scale while ensuring effectiveness and impact;
2. set ambitious goals sufficient to ensure broad, equitable access to higher education opportunities and impact sufficient to sizably reduce the current equity gaps in college matriculation and graduation rates;
3. identify key levers and actions needed to pursue the named goals; and
4. be developed in partnership with the Executive Office of Education and after consultation with relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to practitioners in K-12 and higher education, experts, advocates, and interested business, civic, and community organizations.

The Commissioners shall report back to both BHE and BESE boards, either individually or through a joint session, on the progress in developing a 5- to 10-year strategic plan no later than June 2025.

Authority:

M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(u) and M.G.L. c. 69, §1B;  [06_Final Joint BHE BESE Early College Resolution.docx](#);
 [05_Final BESE BHE Early College Design Principles Attachment A.docx](#)

Contact:

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