
BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Early Enrollment & Student Success

October 20, 2026

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

Overview

A lot to celebrate but more work to be done

01 **Fall 2026 Early Enrollment Data**

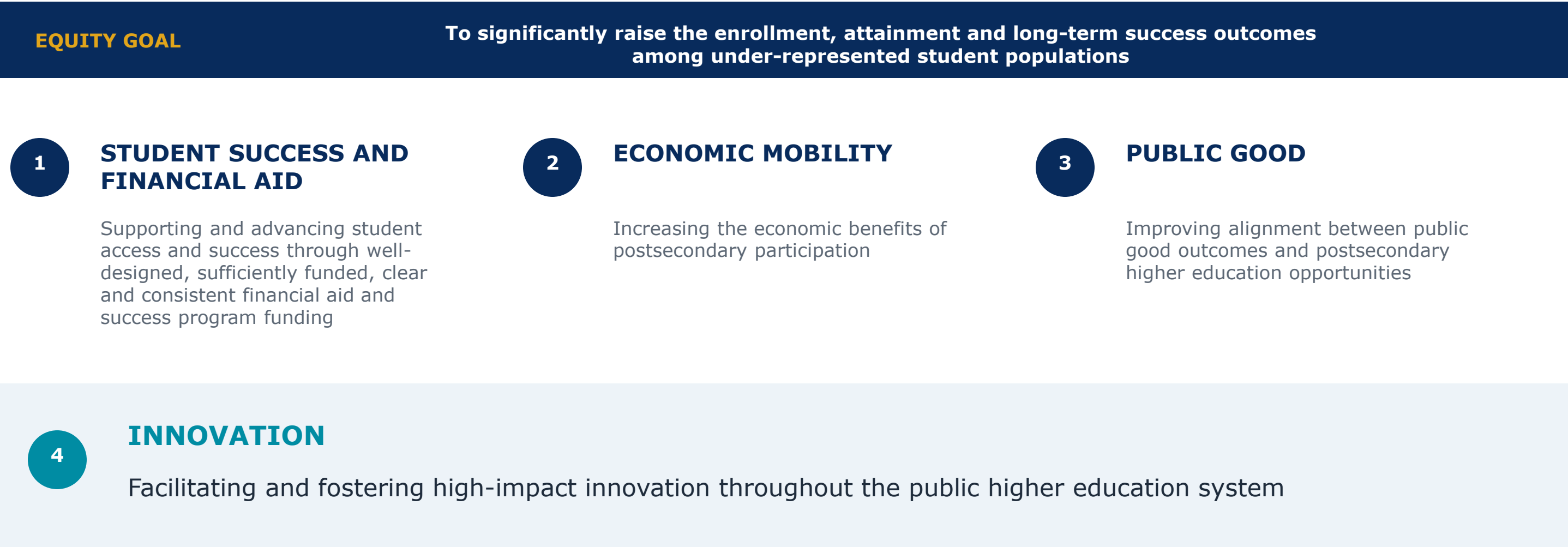
High-level estimates of fall 2026 enrollment

02 **Student Success Trends**

Landscape view of student success outcomes by segment

03 **Q&A**

The Board’s priorities have provided a durable framework



The priorities connect policy choices to the outcomes learners and the Commonwealth need.

DHE Members Presenting Today



Mario Delci, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner for
Research & Planning



Sarah Mealey
Assistant Commissioner for
Analytics & Digital Services

Early Enrollment & Success Key Takeaways

SYSTEMWIDE ENROLLMENT IS UP

- Systemwide: +2.2%
- Community Colleges: +3.9% (4th consecutive increase)
- State Universities: +2.2% (first increase since 2013)
- UMass enrollment is level

NEW TRANSFER ENROLLMENT IS UP

- State Universities: +16.6%
- UMass: +3.8%
- Further investigation needed on who these transfer students are

FIRST-YEAR MOMENTUM IS UP

- On-time credit accumulation continues to rise
- Persistence to second fall:
 - Community Colleges: 62.2%
 - State Universities: 87.0%
 - UMass: 90.6%

Enrollment & Success Report



Student Success Key Updates

Short-term indicators:

On-time credit accumulation continues to increase at the Community Colleges and State Universities

Long-term indicators:

Six-year completion rates are an area of needed growth, and equity gaps throughout the system should be addressed

Short-term indicators influence graduation rates, and recent trends are promising.