

# 610 CMR 15.00: Notice of Public Hearing

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## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **610 CMR 15.00: Massachusetts Inclusive Postsecondary Education Initiative Program Guidelines**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to [M.G.L. c. 30A § 2](#) and [c. 15A, § 9](#) that the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education will open a comment period relative to the adoption of regulation 610 CMR 15.00: Massachusetts Inclusive Postsecondary Education Initiative Program Guidelines.

The Department of Higher Education's proposed regulation 610 CMR 15.00 seeks to establish minimum guidelines, expectations, and procedures to help public higher education institutions offer inclusive education programming safely and appropriately to eligible students with severe disabilities and help strengthen partnerships with other state agencies. Specifically, the proposed regulation: (1) establishes nomenclature for the new program, by instituting "Massachusetts Inclusive Postsecondary Education Initiative" (MAIPSE) as an umbrella term for both the previously existing and newly codified "MAICEI Programs" (students aged 18 years up to the age of 22 years) and "Post-MAICEI Programs" (students aged 22 years and over), which collectively refer to a comprehensive model of services designed to support individuals with severe intellectual disabilities, severe autism spectrum disorder, and severe developmental disabilities; (2) defines minimum expectations for MAIPSE programs at public institutions of higher education (IHEs), such as by requiring each IHE to develop guidelines governing student selection criteria, institutional administrative capacity, course selection, residential housing, and student conduct; (3) provides minimum expectations for an "Individual Student-Centered Participation Plan (ISCPP)", an umbrella term to describe the written plan(s) that are developed in alignment with 610 CMR 15.05 by DDS, MassAbility, or any other relevant state agency that serves individuals with Severe Disabilities and supports participation of a student aged twenty-two (22) years or over in a Public Institution's Post-MAICEI program; and (4) addresses annual, legislatively mandated institutional reporting requirements.

The comment period will begin when the proposed regulation is published in the Massachusetts Register on January 31, 2025 and will close three weeks thereafter, on February 21, 2025.

The public hearing will be held virtually on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 12:00 noon via Zoom:

When: Feb 7, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Participants must register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/i4M6oyqQQI6CyuhCIly6cQ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted at any time prior to 5:00pm EST on February 21, 2025, by directing the same to the following:

**Email:**

BHERegulationsComments@dhe.mass.edu

**Postal Mail:**

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

One Ashburton Place, Room 1401

Boston, MA 02108

Attn: Christopher J. Grimaldi, Assistant General Counsel

Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document and type "610 CMR 15.00" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address.

A copy of the proposed regulations, as well as the Department of Higher Education's fiscal effect and small business impact statement, are available on the Department of Higher Education's website at <https://www.mass.edu/bhe/review.asp>. Copies may also be obtained by calling Christopher J. Grimaldi at 617-994-6983.

For special accommodations for submission of public comments or information regarding submission of public comments in an alternative format, please contact Christopher J. Grimaldi.