

Commission on Higher Education Quality and Affordability (CHEQA)

Five Key Recommendations



CHEQA Membership

- Chris Gabrieli, Board of Higher Education Chair & Commission Co-Chair
- Veronica Conforme, Board of Higher Education Member & Commission Co-Chair
- Viviana Abreu-Hernandez, Executive Director, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center
- Claudine Barnes, Faculty Member, Cape Cod Community College
- Joseph Bonilla, Student Government President, Westfield State University
- JD Chesloff, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- Senator Jo Comerford, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education
- Doug Howgate, Executive Director, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
- Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
- Nate Mackinnon, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges
- Mary Jo Marion, Associate Vice President, Worcester State University
- President Marty Meehan, University of Massachusetts
- Niki Nguyen, Board of Higher Education Member & Student, University of Massachusetts at Boston
- President Nancy Niemi, Framingham State University
- Commissioner Noe Ortega, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Max Page, President, Massachusetts Teachers Association
- Representative Kelly Pease, Ranking Minority Member, Joint Committee on Higher Education
- President David Podell, Massachusetts Bay Community College
- Representative Dave Rogers, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education
- Femi Stoltz, Director of Policy, uAspire
- Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- 1) **“To complement the significant expansion in college access recently implemented through growth in Massachusetts state financial aid for higher education, the Commonwealth should invest further, first and foremost, in funding large scale implementation of effective (based on evidence and ongoing evaluation) student success programs.”**

- 2) **“It is essential for the Commonwealth to codify its financial aid commitment to students, families and institutions of higher education in a manner that establishes clear, consistent multi-year support on which they can rely.”**

- 3) **“The Commonwealth should continue to expand financial aid and other complementary public benefit programs over time for students in two primary directions: first, to support meeting the basic need expenses (e.g. housing, food, child care, and mental as well as physical health care) of low-income students to enable, them to take full advantage of tuition and fee-free college access opportunities; and second, to reduce on a sliding scale the burdensome debt that low- and moderate-income families must take on to meet their full cost of attendance.”**

- 4) **“Because recruiting and retaining high-quality staff and faculty is a critical enabler for a high-quality higher education system, the Commonwealth needs to and should pursue a timely comprehensive review of faculty and staff remunerative and non-remunerative structures, policies, and practices complete with recommendations and an implementation plan.”**

- 5) **To ensure adequacy, predictability and sustainability in meeting these goals and higher education's funding needs, the Commonwealth needs to rely both on sustained general budget appropriations and complementary additional investment from the Fair Share Fund. Moreover, the Commonwealth should commit a fixed, meaningful share of annual Fair Share Education and Transportation proceeds to support a range of higher education uses much as the Massachusetts Transportation Funding Task Force recommended.**

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