

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**NO.:** BHE 25-22

**BOARD DATE:** December 03, 2024

**APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the attached Board of Higher Education budget priorities and recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026 (Attachment A), and further authorizes the Commissioner to submit the Board's budget priorities and recommendations to the Secretary of Education, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 15A, section 15B.

The Board further authorizes and directs the Commissioner to continue to work with the Secretary, Governor, and Legislature to finalize an FY2026 state budget for the Department and the public higher education system that supports the Board's collective priorities for the upcoming academic year.

**VOTED:** Motion approved and advanced to the full BHE by the Executive Committee on 11/25/2024; and adopted by the BHE on 12/3/2024.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 6, 9 and 15B.

Contact: Matthew Cole, Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Finance and Operations  
Michael Dannenberg, Deputy Commissioner for Policy

## **Background**

As a part of the annual state budget cycle, the Board of Higher Education (Board) is required to approve and submit budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year to the Secretary of Education. M.G.L. c. 15A, §15B. This request includes funding for the Community Colleges and State Universities, as well as the programs administered by the Department of Higher Education. Attached as "Attachment A" are proposed budget priorities and recommendations submitted for Board approval. The budget priorities and recommendations are based upon the *Strategic Higher Education Financing Policy Framework (BHE 23-23)* approved by the Board during its December 13, 2022 meeting.

Staff recommendation is for the Board to approve the attached budget priorities and recommendations and authorize the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education.