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MEMORANDUM

TO: College Admissions Officers, Financial Aid Officers, and Other Interested Persons

FROM: DHE Office of Student Financial Assistance and Legal Office

DATE: September 22, 2025

SUBJECT: **Tuition Equity Law – Academic Year 2025-2026 Guidance**

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (“DHE”) is pleased to share a new, streamlined **Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit** for High School Completers for the 2025-26 Academic Year, which effectively:

- Consolidates the two, formerly distinct Tuition Equity Law Form and Affidavits for “High School Seniors” and “All Other Applicants” into a single, universal Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit in which student-applicants simply certify that they “will have attended three (3) academic years of high school in Massachusetts by the time they enroll at an eligible [higher education] institution”;
- Clarifies that the three (3) year MA high school attendance requirement refers to **academic** years, and that the requisite three (3) academic years of required high school attendance need not be consecutive and may have occurred at any time;¹
- Consistent with the updated Tuition Equity Law pursuant to section 22 of the FY25 budget signed into law on July 29, 2024 and effective July 1, 2024,²

¹ The only relevant high school attendance for the purpose of determining a student’s “High School Completer” status would be their time enrolled in a Massachusetts high school or an approved homeschooling plan; not coursework specifically completed for GED/Hi-Set/TOEFL preparation.

² See [G.L. c. 15A, § 9](#), as amended through [St. 2024, c. 140, § 22](#). Proof of a student’s Selective Service registration may still fulfill their documentation requirement under Section B of the updated form.

eliminates the requirement for eligible students to register with the U.S. Selective Service.

- Explicitly provides that a student must complete the Affidavit section **only if they are not** providing a valid social security number, documentation reflecting issuance of a taxpayer identification number, or documentation of registration with Selective Service; and
- Replaces language referencing “non-immigrant alien” status with more inclusive language enabling students to confirm their immigration or visa status relative to 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(A) to (S).

Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit

Pursuant to implementation guidance [issued in September 2023](#), currently enrolled and prospective students were directed to submit a completed Tuition Equity Law Form and Affidavit to the financial aid office at **any** institution of higher education they were accepted to, may be interested in attending, or may have already enrolled in. The form has served as the primary document used to determine eligibility under the Tuition Equity Law, but due to the decentralized nature of the form, students have had to submit multiple copies to each institution of interest to them. As a result of technical changes to the Tuition Equity Law and feedback received over the first two years of implementing the Tuition Equity Law, DHE is issuing this updated form.

Meanwhile, DHE is also working toward a point at which it will be practical and advisable for a student to only submit **one** Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit to the single institution at which they have made an enrollment deposit or are already enrolled. To the extent possible, DHE encourages institutions to assess their respective admissions and financial aid award processes and identify opportunities in such processes where High School Completers might be able to self-identify as being potentially eligible for in-state tuition rates and fees and/or state-funded financial assistance under the Tuition Equity Law, without having to submit the Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit.

Institutions are encouraged to bring parity to these processes so that High School Completers are admitted, awarded, and enrolled on similar timelines to all other students. To both encourage and maximize student participation under M.G.L. c. 15A, s. 9, par. 5, DHE encourages institutions to delay requiring submission of the Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit as late in the admissions and enrollment process as practicable—optimally, once a student has applied, been admitted, and submitted their student deposit. In support of this gradual transition institutions are reminded that DHE will only require audit documentation from the institution at which a student ultimately enrolls.

For the 2025-26 academic year, DHE requests that all institutions transition to the newly updated Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit. The prior forms will be taken down from DHE's website. Copies of the new form are available upon request if necessary.

Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)

DHE's release of the consolidated Tuition Equity Form and Affidavit for High School Completers for the 2025-26 academic year is intended to align with the agency's upcoming launch of the 2026-27 Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) that, starting this academic year, will be integrated into the MASSAid system.

As a reminder, students should only fill out **one** financial aid application per award year, either the FAFSA or the MASFA, but **not both**. The MASFA should only be completed by students who are **both** ineligible for federal financial aid **and** meet the Tuition Equity Law's requirements for "High School Completer" status. To help students, families, and administrators determining whether a student should complete the FAFSA or the MASFA, DHE has developed a free wizard available [here](#) under "Massachusetts State Financial Aid."

In addition, DHE acknowledges that some students may be ineligible for state scholarships and financial aid through MASFA, but nevertheless are simultaneously **eligible** for in-state tuition as a "High School Completer." Massachusetts state public institutions (M.G.L. c. 15A, § 5) should review each student's individual circumstances carefully to ensure the student is charged the appropriate tuition rate independent of the student's eligibility for state financial aid.

Example: A student living in New York would **not** qualify for state financial aid via MASFA unless they can demonstrate proof of Massachusetts residency within the past twelve (12) months of the start date of the academic semester for which they seek to enroll. However, under the Tuition Equity Law, this same student still qualifies for in-state tuition if they 1) attended during three (3) academic years of high school in Massachusetts, 2) received a Massachusetts high school diploma or equivalent, and 3) do not have a nonimmigrant visa within the meaning of 8 U.S.C. § 1101 (a)(15)(A) through (S) inclusive.

We hope this information and updated form is helpful and thank you for your continued partnership. This updated guidance, form, and flowchart will also be made available on our website at www.mass.edu/tuitionequity. For any additional questions, please email us at tuitionequity@dhe.mass.edu.