

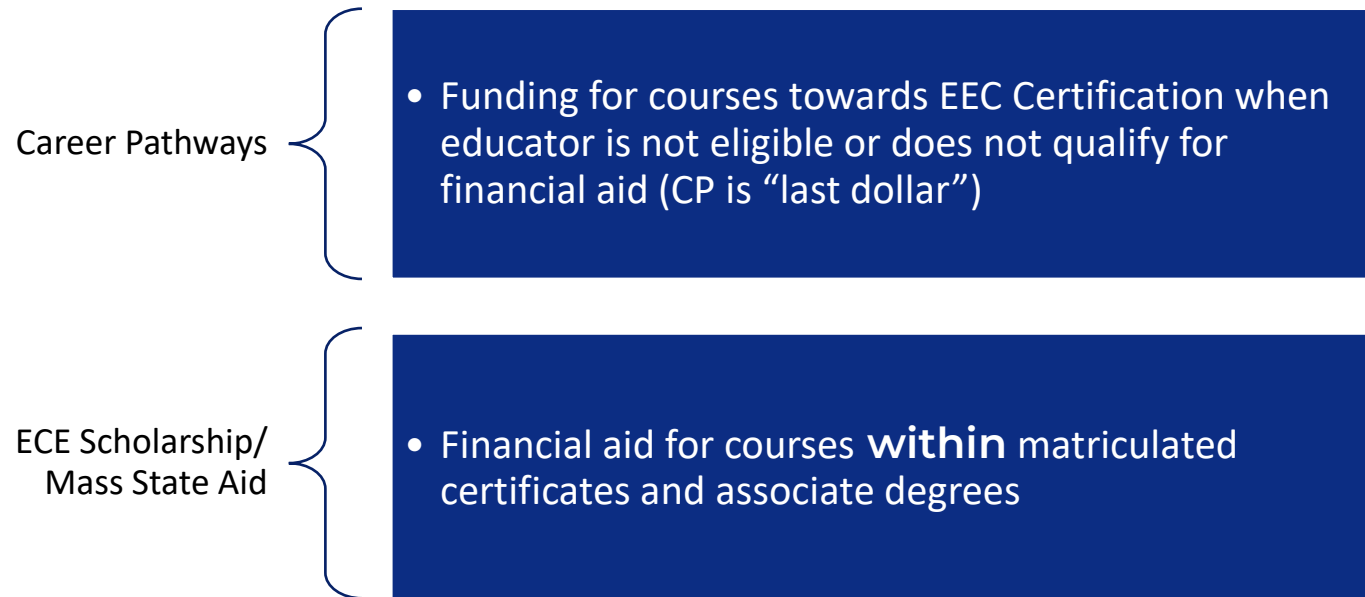


Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

Career Pathways and Early Childhood Educator Scholarship Information

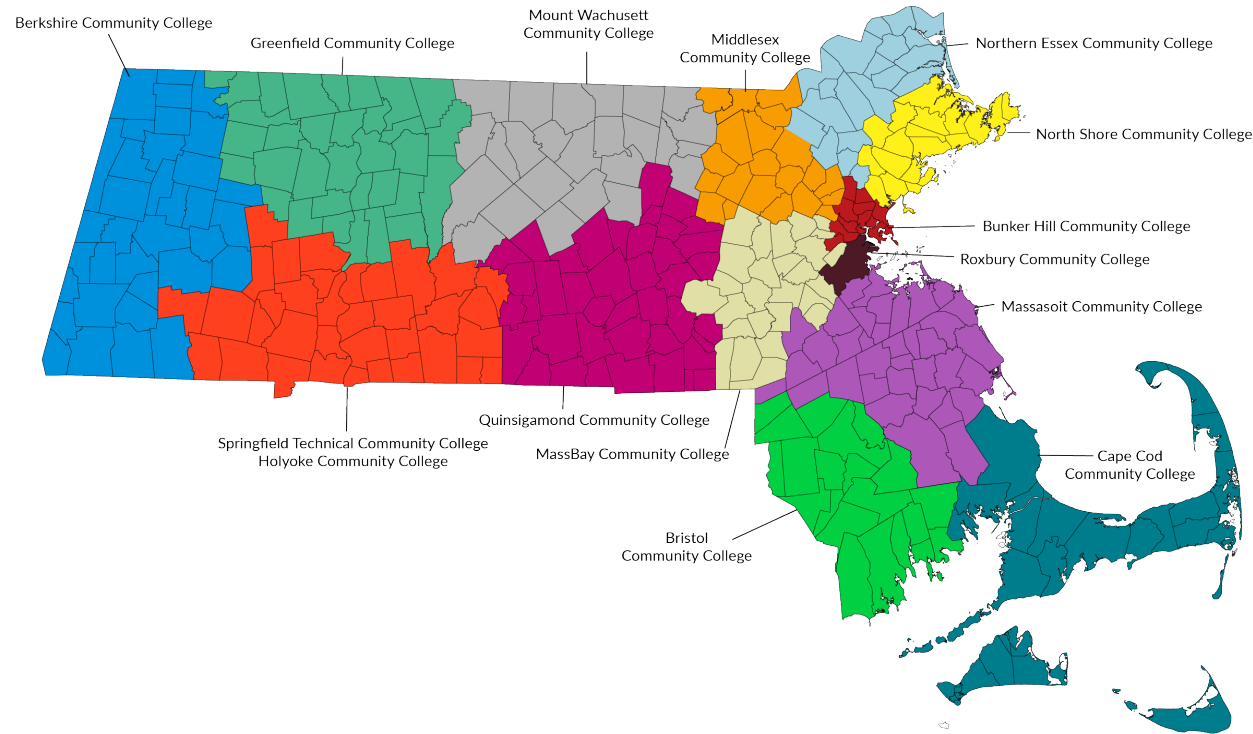
EEC Educational Pathways

The **Career Pathways Grant** and the **Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Scholarship** provide a no/low-cost educational pathway for early childhood educators working in EEC licensed or funded programs including **center based, after/out-of-school time, family child care, and residential programs.**



Early Childhood Career Pathways Grant

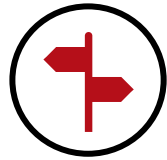
The Career Pathways Grant provides funding and support to public community colleges to support the early care and education workforce to enter, remain in, and progress along a professional pathway, including classes for EEC Certification.



[EEC Career Pathways Webpage](#)

What does the EEC Career Pathways Grant provide?

Massachusetts Community Colleges have dedicated supports for early childhood staff to take college courses.



Support with class selection and enrollment



College level courses that lead towards EEC certification



College level certificate or associates degree in early childhood



Textbooks, tutoring, mentoring, career counseling, access to library, food pantry and other campus supports



Assistance and support applying for the ECE Scholarship

Am I eligible for Career Pathways services?

Career Pathways students must:

- Have an active account in [EEC's Professional Qualifications Registry](#) (PQR)
- Live and work in Massachusetts
- Be employed for at least 20 hrs/wk at an EEC licensed or funded program OR intend to begin working at an EEC licensed or funded program within 6 months, OR be a recent or near future graduate of a high school EEC program
- Agree to the terms and conditions of participation, including: completing course and or college application, participate in supports necessary for success, remaining employed during participation in the course(s), agreeing to remain in the field for at least 1 year after completion, sharing demographic data for the purposes of reporting
- Other requirements as requested by the college (For example: high school diploma, good financial/academic standing, application to the college)

Getting Started with Career Pathways



Choose a college that is close to where you live or work so you can access in-person classes and services like the library and tutoring center.

- If you've already taken classes at a community college, return to that college.
- If you need classes in a language other than English, select a college that offers the language you need.



Send an email to the Career Pathways Grant Coordinator at the community college of your choice.

[Find contact information for Grant Coordinators](#)

Steps for course registration...



Plan ahead! There are several important steps to take to prepare for the start of a new semester and course registration. Watch your email carefully for a reply from the Career Pathways Grant Coordinator (please check your email regularly).

☐ The Career Pathways Grant Coordinator will assist with:

- Funding eligibility, FAFSA & application support
- Review of transcripts and/or prior college course work
- Course selection
- Registration and schedule
- Overview of college resources and supports

☐ **All students are required to complete the FAFSA and the ECE Scholarship Application to determine funding eligibility**

- Those that are deemed eligible will leverage the ECE Scholarship, Pell Grant, or Mass Educate/Reconnect
- Those that are deemed ineligible will leverage Career Pathways funding

[Find contact information for Grant Coordinators](#)

Early Childhood Educator Scholarship



The ECE Scholarship is:

- Jointly offered by EEC and the Department of Higher Education to help educators increase their qualifications through a college degree.
- Based on a per credit rate, depending on the type of institution.
- Provides funding to assist with the cost of a maximum of three courses per semester during the traditional fall, spring and summer.

Eligibility Requirements

- Physically **reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term**, with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; and have **approved eligibility status as a “High School Completer,”¹** per the Massachusetts tuition equity law,² **or be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations.**
- Have applied for financial aid, using the standard **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a FAFSA equivalent application** authorized by the Department of Higher Education.
- **Not be in default of any federal or state Student Loans** for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.
- “Enroll, as a **matriculated student**, in an undergraduate degree program, full or part-time, in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, Family Studies, Child Care Administration or fields that directly name early child development and its specific areas of inquiry. Eligible graduate programs include these same categories as well as Early Childhood Research, Policy and Practice; Education Entrepreneurship; and Learning Sciences.”
- Be employed, for at least six months, as **an educator or provider in an early education and care program or out of school time program that is** licensed or authorized by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and continue employment in this field while pursuing the approved course of study.
- **Sign an agreement to continue employment as an early childhood educator or provider** in Massachusetts upon completing the degree requirement, or repay funds as defined.
- Students must either be pursuing their first bachelor’s degree or pursuing a master’s degree in an approved program, as defined.

¹ See www.mass.edu/tuitionequity for more details. ² Pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023.

Eligible Majors and Proposed Award Amounts

Major	
Child and Family Studies	Psychology
Child Care Administration	Elementary Education
Child Development	Special Education
Child Guidance	Social Work
Child Psychology	Family Studies
Early Childhood Education	Human Services
Human Services <i>(eligible when it includes Early Childhood as the concentration)</i>	

Institution Type	Proposed Award Per Credit	Proposed Max Per Semester (9 Credits)
Public University	\$750	\$6,750
Private College/ University	\$750	\$6,750
State College	\$550	\$4,950
Community College	\$350	\$3,150

Complete the FAFSA or equivalent

Wait 42-78 hours for FAFSA data to process. You will receive an email from OSFA inviting you to login to your MASSAid portal.



osfamail@osfamass.org

To: [REDACTED]



Mon 5/13/2024 11:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello [REDACTED]


Congratulations! The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has received a copy of your 2024 - 2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from the Federal Processing Center. We invite you to go to our Student Portal at MASSAid Portal for students - User Login ([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://massaid.guarantorsolutions.com/StudentPortal_!!CPANwP4y!RtL2-WUn0EBlwOJuZm9XHdmR-BSlihiJuygYlxqEVp6RbOwwd39GWfETpwJx_szAZfruYBSgjRvmEbtMheev3w\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://massaid.guarantorsolutions.com/StudentPortal_!!CPANwP4y!RtL2-WUn0EBlwOJuZm9XHdmR-BSlihiJuygYlxqEVp6RbOwwd39GWfETpwJx_szAZfruYBSgjRvmEbtMheev3w$)) to log in or set up a user account to explore Massachusetts financial aid programs. Please contact our office at 617.391.6070 for questions about this email.

Reply

Forward



Create or login to your [MASSAid account](#)



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Log In

User Name







[Forgot your User Name, click here](#)

If this is your first time accessing the Student Portal, [click here to create an account](#).

Log In

MASS OSFA | [Site Policies](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#)

Connect with @MASSDHE



Resources

- Career Pathways Information

- Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) [Career Pathways Information](#)

- Scholarship Information

- Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) [Scholarship Information](#)
- Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) [Scholarship Information](#)

- Ask a Question

- You can ask a specific question by [completing this form](#), found on the Career Pathways webpage.