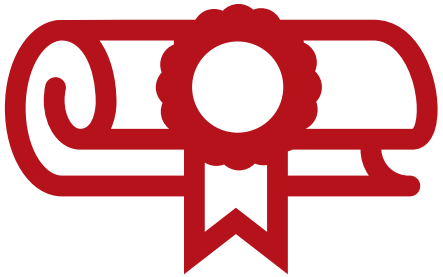
MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Early Childhood Educator Scholarship

2026-2027 Information Sessions

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Scholarship



The ECE Scholarship is a collaboration between the **Department of Early Education and Care** (EEC) and the **Department of Higher Education**. It is intended to support the early childhood education workforce advance their careers through higher education.

Support for College

The ECE Scholarship is financial aid towards **college certificates and degrees** at eligible Massachusetts colleges and universities.

You are eligible to apply for financial assistance if you work, or plan to begin working at, an EEC licensed or funded:

- Family Child Care (FCC)
- Center-based program
- After School/Out-of-School Time (ASOST) program
- Residential Placement program
- Contracted Family Child Care (FCC) System

Eligible Majors*

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

*Title of selected major must match one of these exactly.

Eligible graduate/master's programs include these same majors as above, as well as Early Childhood Research, Policy, and Practice; Education Entrepreneurship; and Learning Sciences.

Award Amounts

Institution Type	Award Per Credit	3 Credits (1 class)	6 Credits (2 classes)	9 Credits (3 classes)
Public University	$750	$2,250	$4,500	$6,750
Private College/ University	$750	$2,250	$4,500	$6,750
State College	$550	$1,650	$3,300	$4,950
Community College	$350	$1,050	$2,100	$3,150

Get Started with the ECE Scholarship

Action Steps:

1. Confirm eligibility requirements
2.

Complete FAFSA	Apply to the college of your choice (two- or four- year institution
Wait 72 hours after PROCESSING	
Complete ECE Scholarship Application	

3. Attend to emails and messages from the college and MA Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

Eligibility Requirements

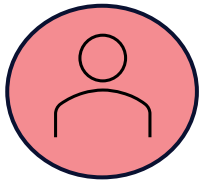
Be a Massachusetts resident for at least **1 year**

Applied for financial aid through FAFSA or equivalent and not in default of any federal or state loans

Be **employed** as an educator or provider

OR

be a **prospective** educator or provider (with 1 year to secure employment) in a program licensed by EEC

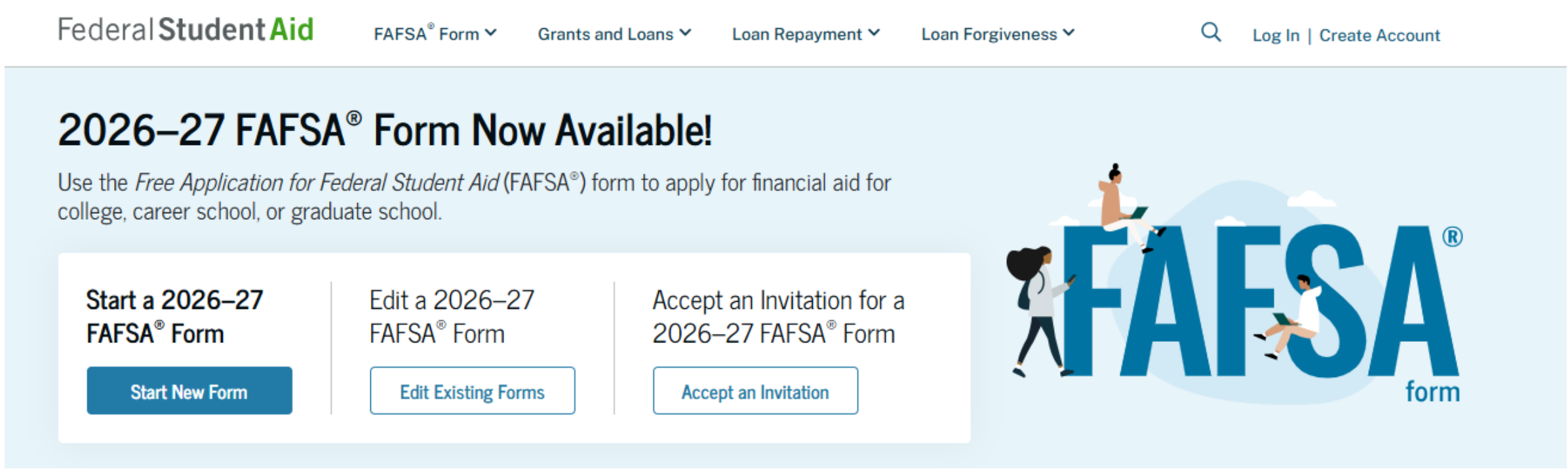


Be a "High School Completer", U.S Citizen, permanent legal resident, or Title IV-eligible non-citizen

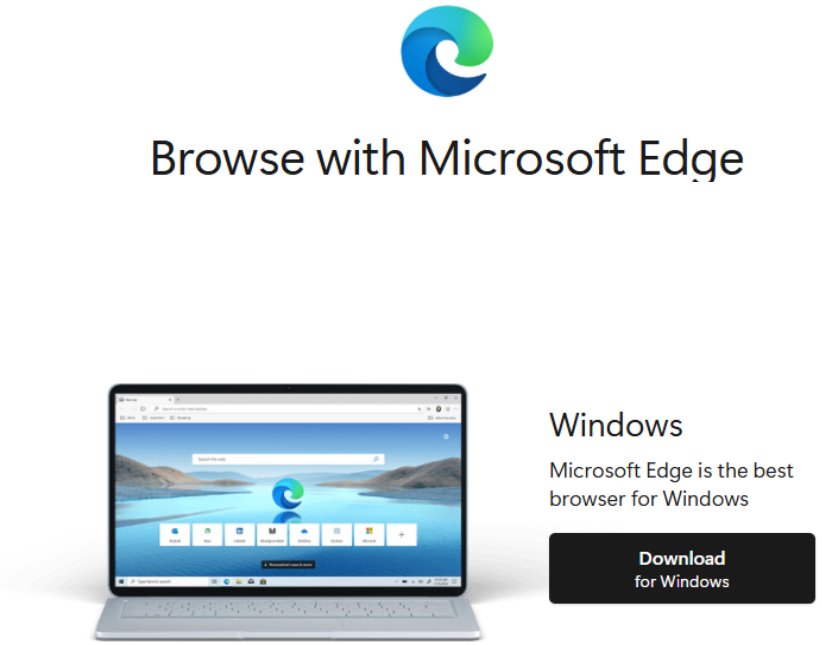
Be a matriculated student in an approved program, pursuing your first bachelor's degree or a master's degree

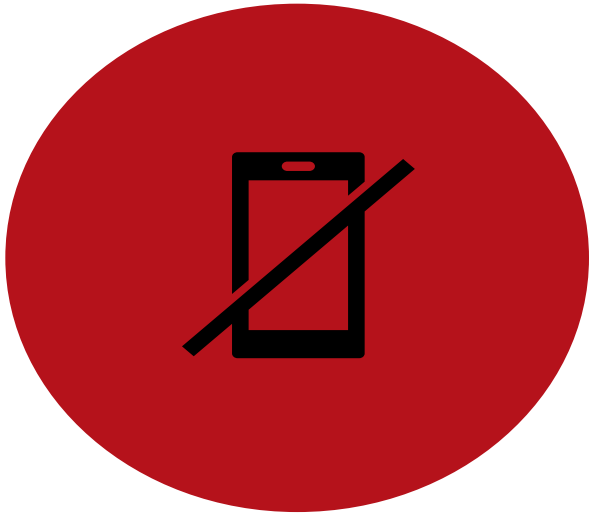
Sign an agreement to continue employment as an educator or provider after degree completion

Complete the FAFSA or equivalent

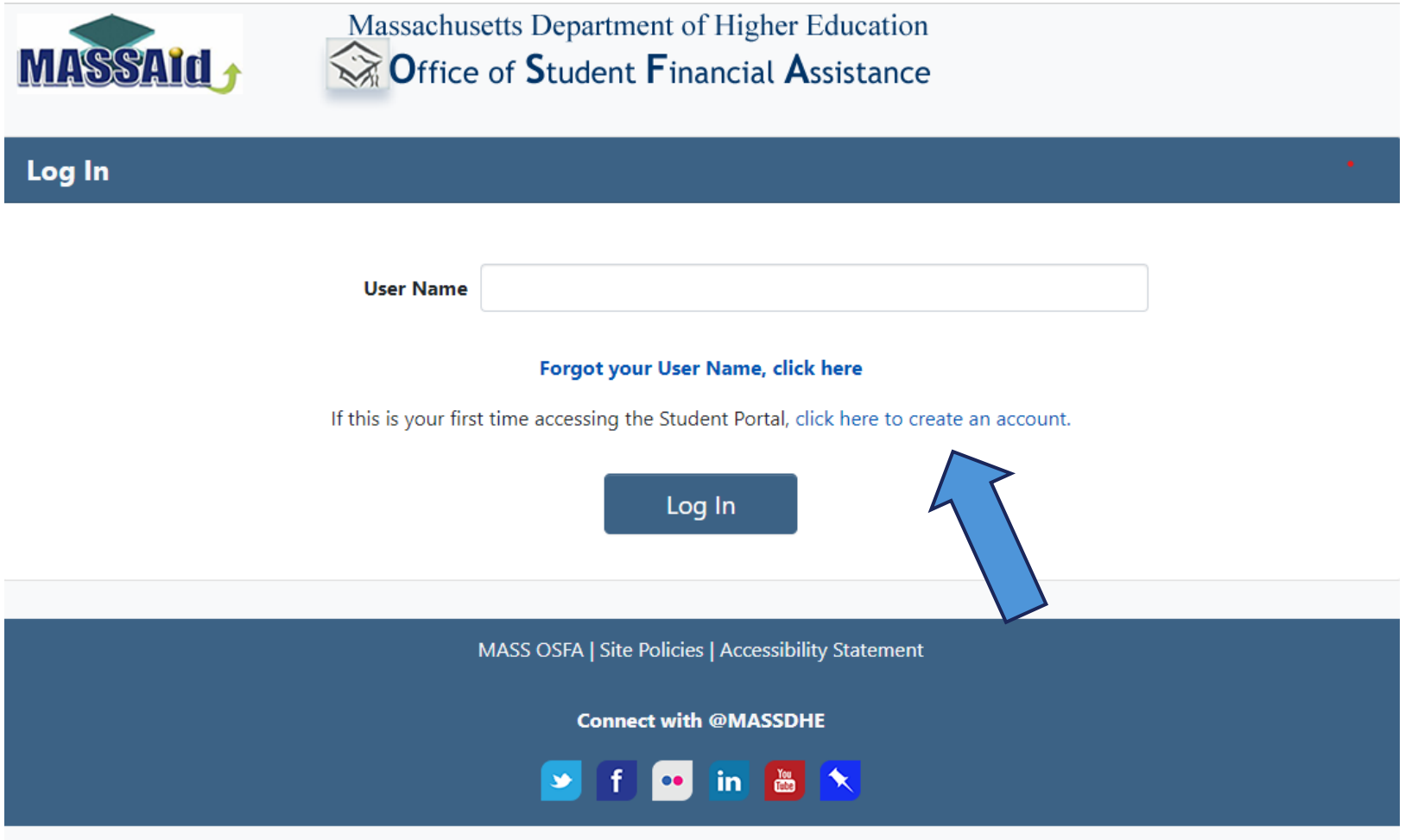


Access the MASSAid Platform

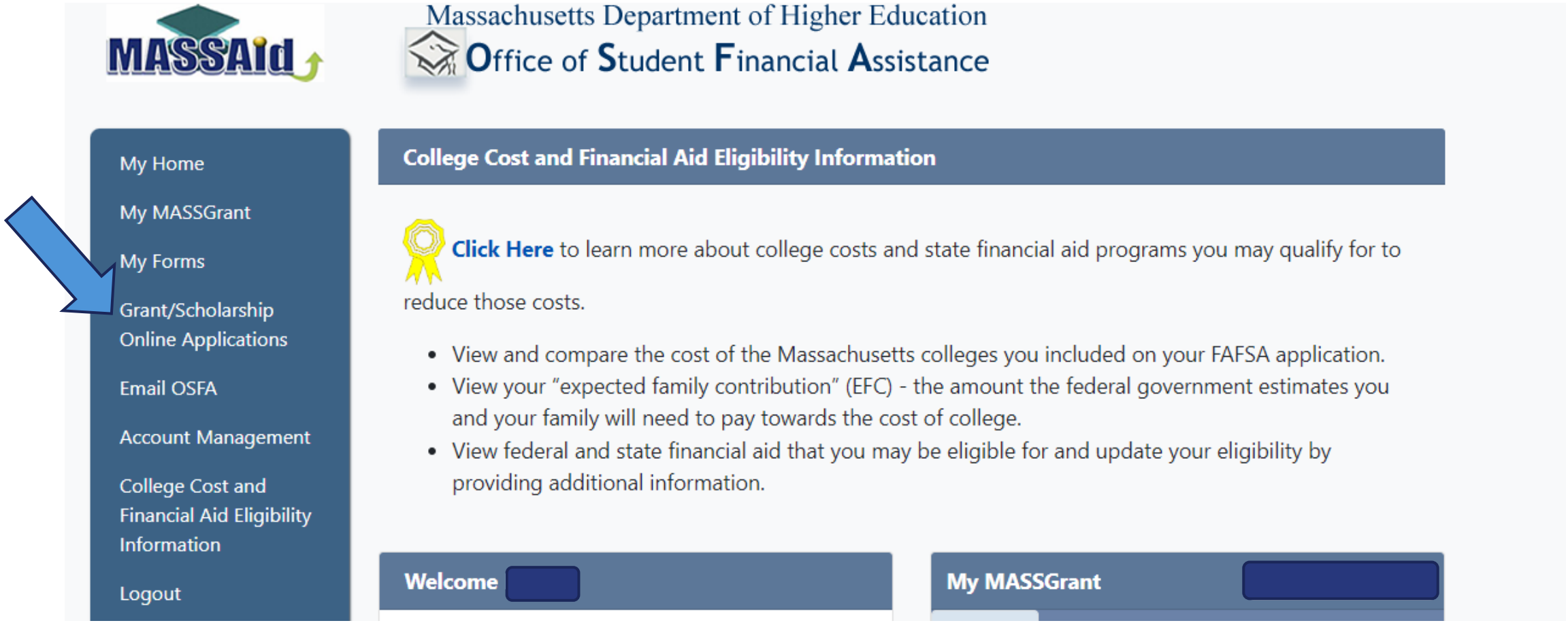




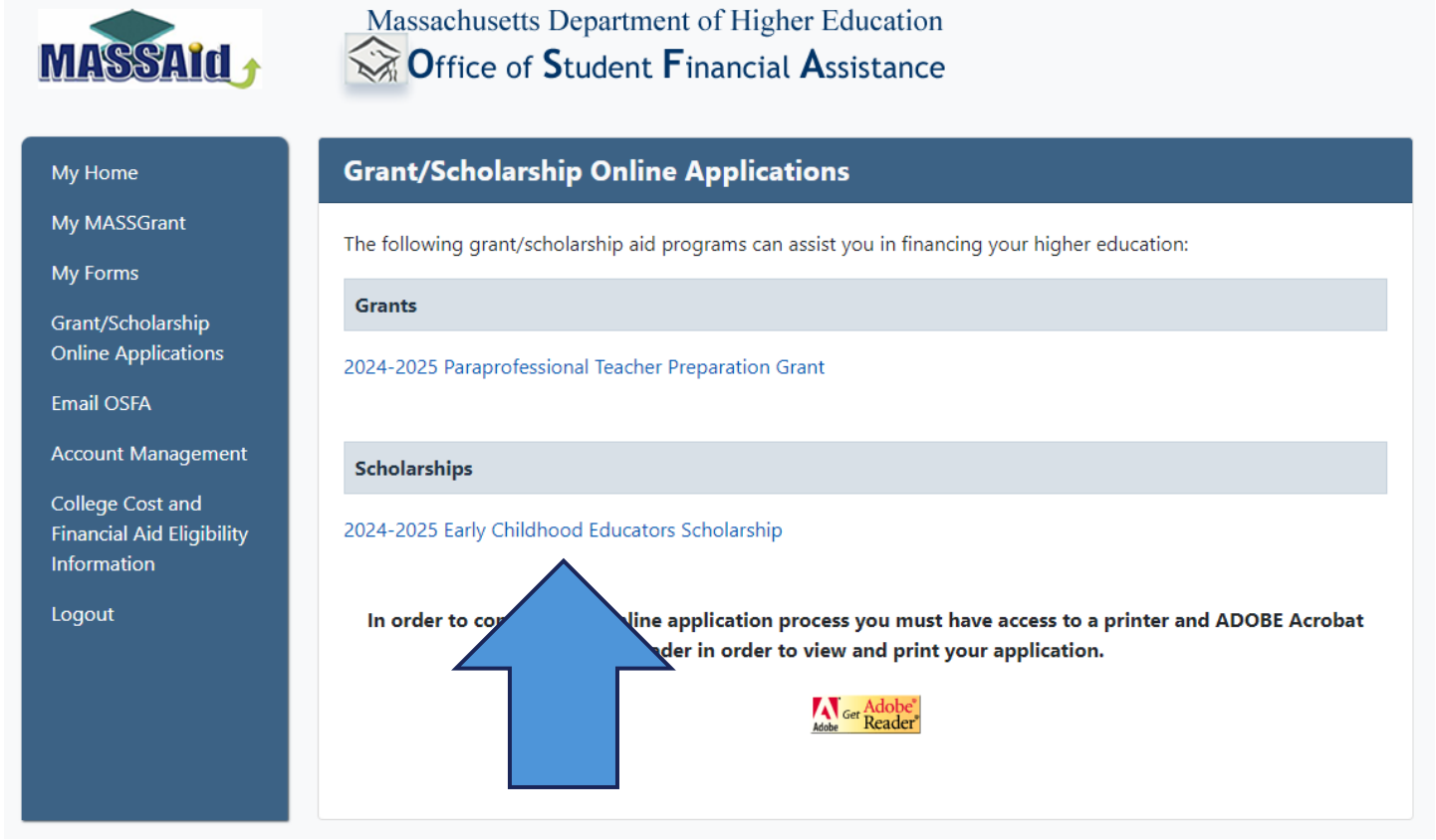
Create or login to MassAid



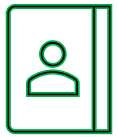
Find the ECE Scholarship application



Find the ECE Scholarship application- next step



Application Sections

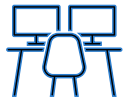


❑Student Information

✓Name, contact information, demographics

❑Application Information

✓Information regarding your academic program



❑Employer Information

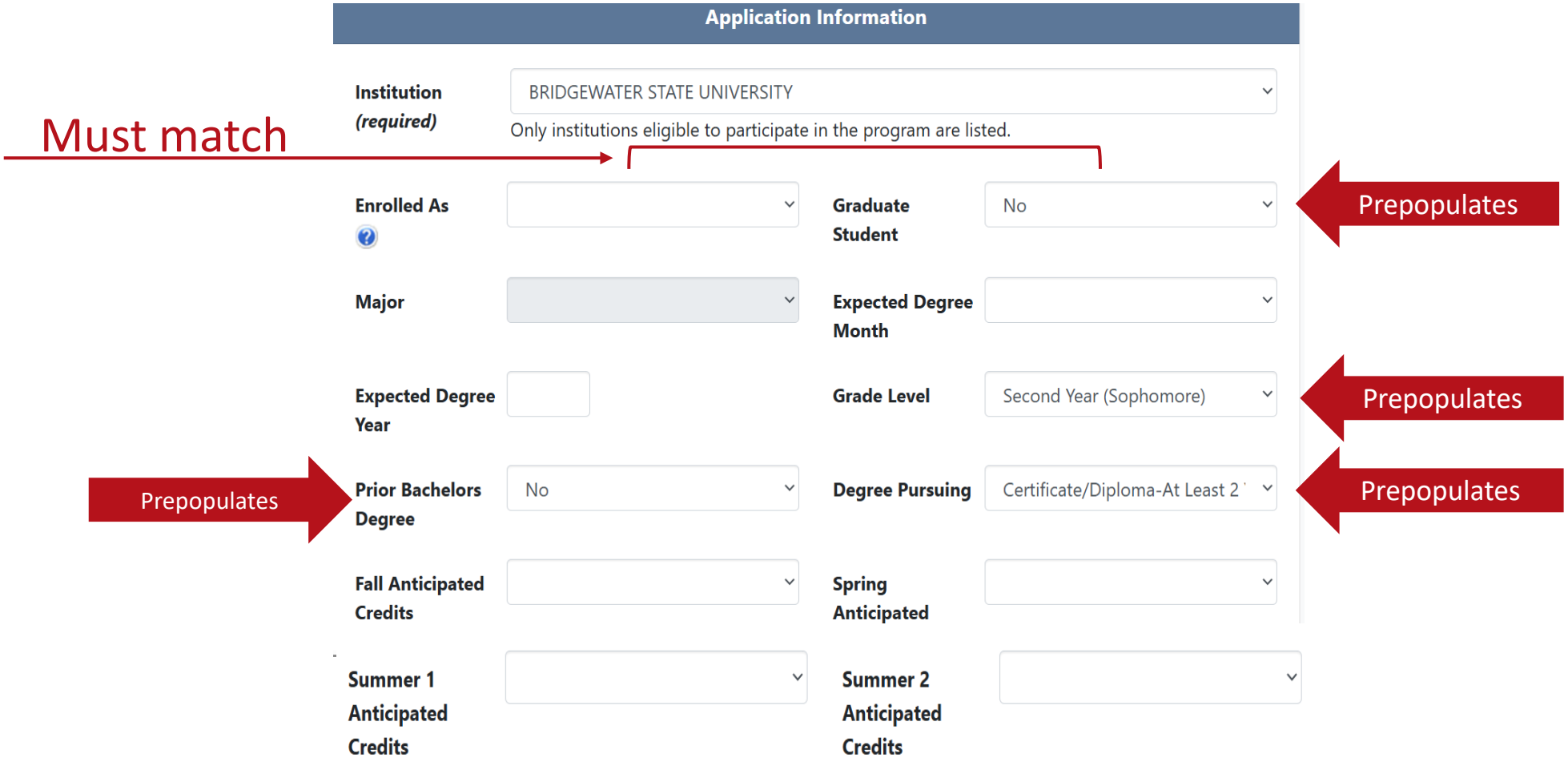
✓Work experience

Student Information

Address	FIELDS PRE-POPULATE WITH
City	STUDENT INFO (FAFSA)
State	Massachusetts
Zip Code	-
Phone Number	
Email Address	MAKE SURE THIS IS UP TO DATE
Gender	
Ethnicity	

Data collected is for demographic purposes and will only be used consistent with state and federal law.

Application Information



Application Information

I am applying as: (you must select one)

○ **Employed:** by selecting employed, I certify that I am currently employed at a licensed or authorized EEC program.

Or,

○ **Prospective Student:** by selecting prospective student, I certify that I am unemployed or not employed as an early education and care provider at a facility or program, licensed/authorized by the Department of Early Education and Care, but plan to enroll in an approved course of study as defined in the eligibility requirements of the ECE Scholarship.

And as such, I understand that:

If selected as a recipient of the ECE scholarship, I must:

Demonstrate that **I am seeking employment with an early education and care provider in the commonwealth;**

And,

have agreed to enroll in a degree or certificate program in the early education and care field in the commonwealth; provided, however, that recipients of the scholarship program shall commit to providing early education and care in the commonwealth for a term of service to be determined by the board in consultation with the board of early education and care.

☐ I understand that I can only apply as a prospective student **once**, and that I must obtain eligible employment the following application cycle to meet eligibility guidelines for the ECE Scholarship Program.

Employer Information

Employer Information

CURRENT EMPLOYER

The EEC Program Number can be found in the LEAD portal under "Provider Number" OR on your program's EEC license as the FIRST number listed a P-XXXX

Current Employer Name

P-

Program Number

Current Employer Address

Current Position/Title

Current Employer City

Start Date (mm/dd/ccyy)

Current Employer State

PQ Registry Number

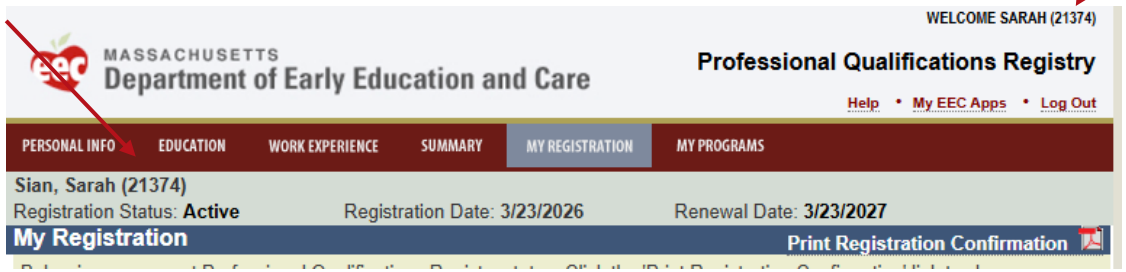
DEEC

EEC Program Number is attached to the program where you work.

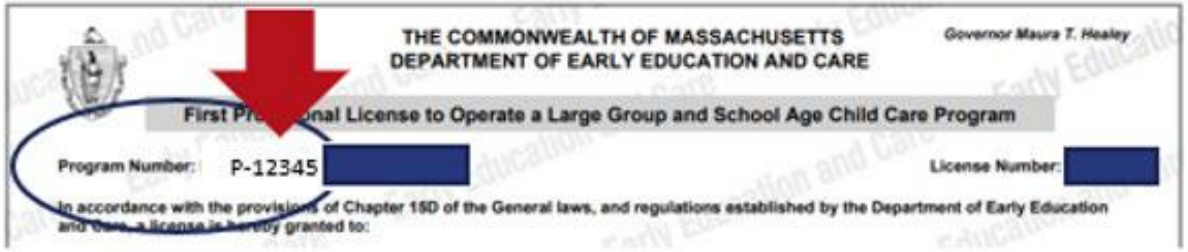
EEC Single Sign On PQR must be "active."

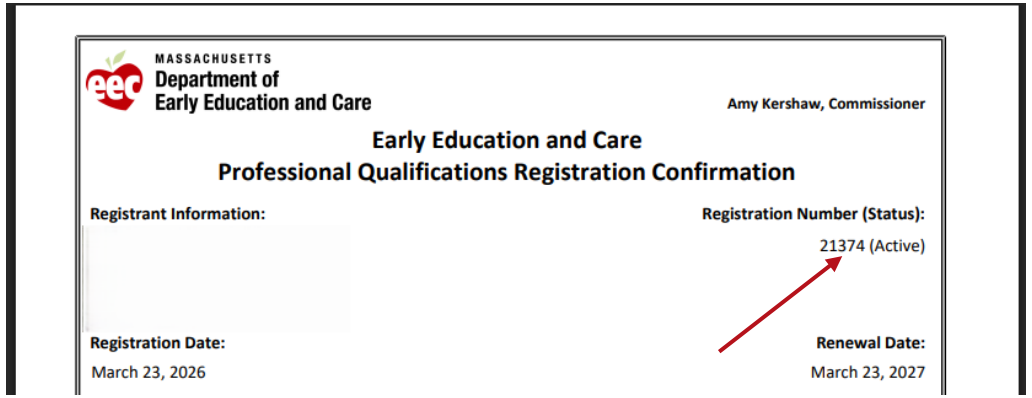
Program and PQR Numbers

An individual Professional Qualifications Registry Number can be found in your EEC Single Sign In or on your PQR Certificate.



The **EEC Program Number** can be found in the LEAD portal under "Provider Number" OR on your program's EEC license as the FIRST number listed: P-12345.





Employer Information

Current Employer Zip -

Program Phone Number

Average Hours Worked Per Week

Average Hours Program Operates Per Week

Supervisor Last Name

Supervisor First Name

Supervisor Phone Number

Supervisor Email Address

Supervisor Title

Family Child Care and Center-based Program Owners can list their own information in the supervisor fields.

Previous Employer Information

PREVIOUS EMPLOYER 1

Name		**Position/Title**	
Address		**Start Date (mm/dd/ccyy)**	
City		**End Date (mm/dd/ccyy)**	
State		**Supervisor Last Name**	
Zip	-	**Supervisor First Name**	
Program Phone Number		**Supervisor Phone Number**	
Supervisor Email Address			

Terms and Conditions

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

☐ I understand that the ECE Scholarship ***DOES NOT*** include any part of a public school system. Subsequently positions/and or employment within a public school are **NOT** eligible. (ex. Paraprofessionals, teachers, guidance counselor, etc.) The Massachusetts public school system falls under the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)**, not EEC.

☐ **Licensed or Authorized Employer:**

All eligible programs must have a Program Number issued by the Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) and have an active account in LEAD. Such programs have been authorized to operate direct care to children in the following settings:

- Family child care
- Group and school-aged center based care
- Out-of-School Time
- Residential and Placement programs

Family Child Care Systems that have contracts with EEC to provide financially subsidized care to children are also eligible employers.

☐ **I understand that an eligible position is defined as:**

Those that provide direct care to children, such as:

- Family Child Care (FCC) owners/educators
- FCC assistants
- Assistant teachers
- Teachers
- Lead teachers
- Directors
- Group leaders
- Site coordinators
- Residential and placement care providers

This also includes specific positions within Family Child Care Systems that have contract agreements with EEC, such as home visitors, mentors, coaches, and educational leaders.

(Early education and care includes formal programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children during out-of-school time, and residential and placement programs.)

Service Commitment

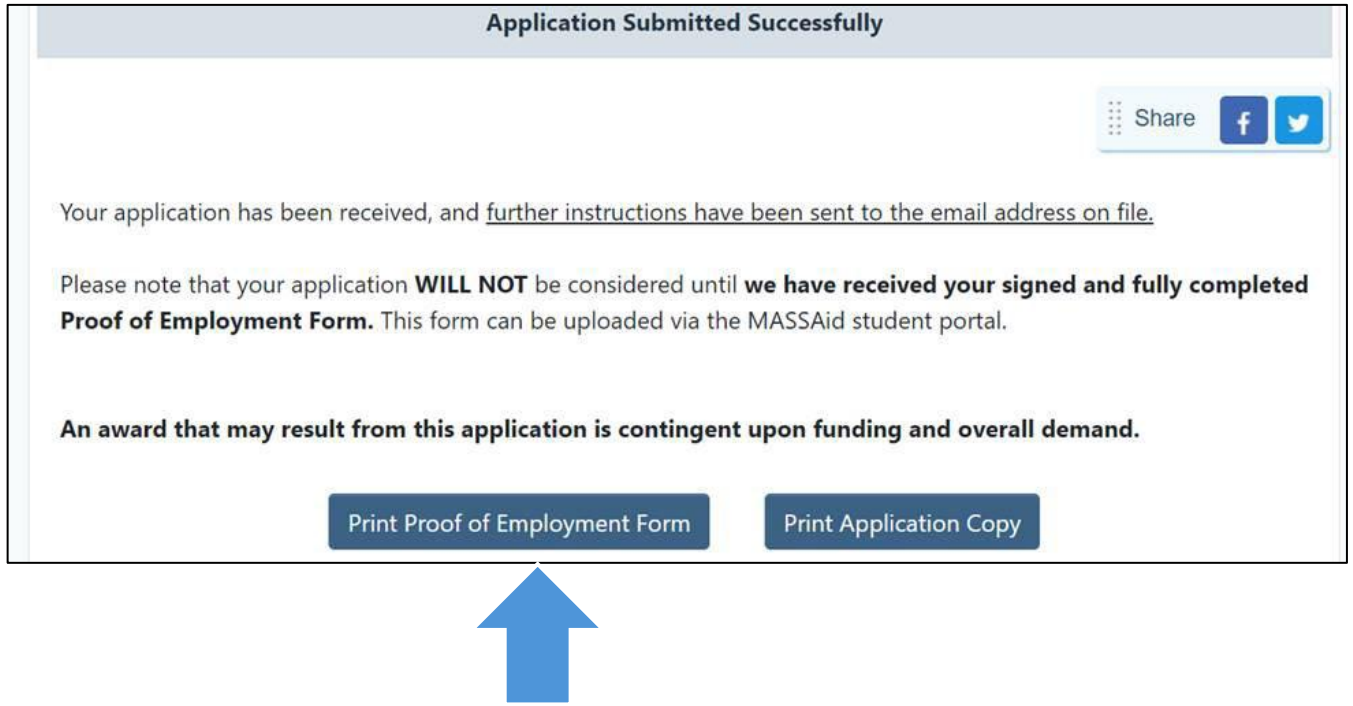
Agree to the Service Commitment by checking the box.
Be sure to save and submit your application.

Service Commitment Agreement

- ☐ **I understand that although there are no procedures for repayment if a student fails to complete the above commitments, that as a recipient of the ECE Scholarship there is an expectation that students will continue to be employed in the Early Childhood Education field as an educator or provider in Massachusetts for six months per semester of scholarship receipt, not to exceed a two year maximum commitment upon graduation from an associate's degree program and a four year maximum commitment upon graduation from a bachelor's degree program.**
- ☐ **I understand that employment in a MA public school system does not fulfill the service obligation for the ECE Scholarship.**
- ☐ **I have read the terms and conditions and understand the above defined eligible employers and positions.**

In the event that the fiscal year appropriation is not sufficient to permit a full award to each eligible student, priority consideration will be given to eligible applicants recommended by an individual qualified to speak to their commitment and dedication to the field of early education and care; or members of a socially or economically disadvantaged community as defined by the Department in consultation with the Department of Early Education and Care.

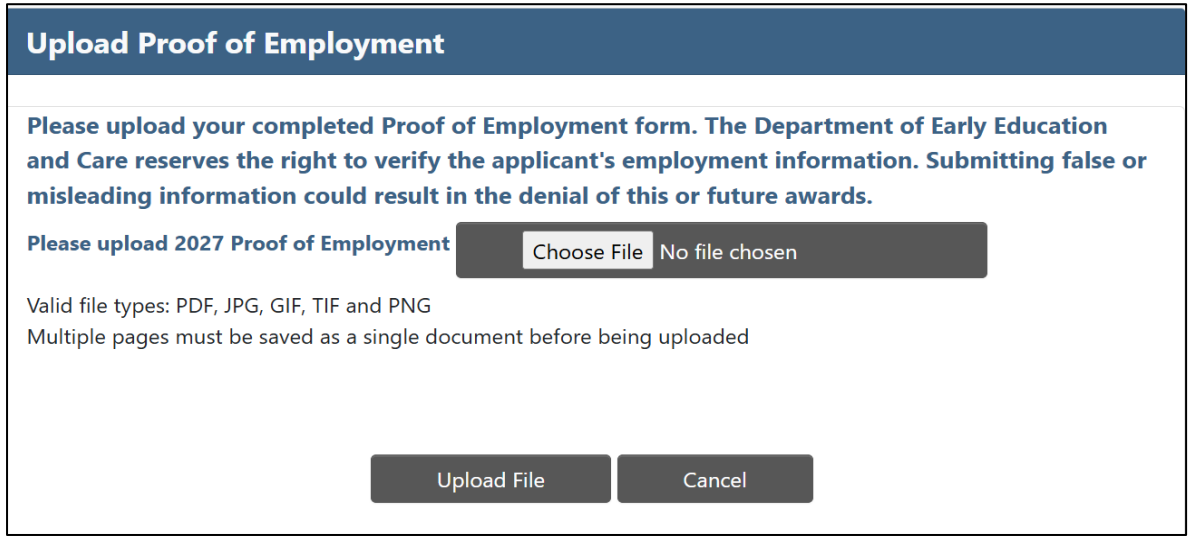
Print Proof of Employment (POE)



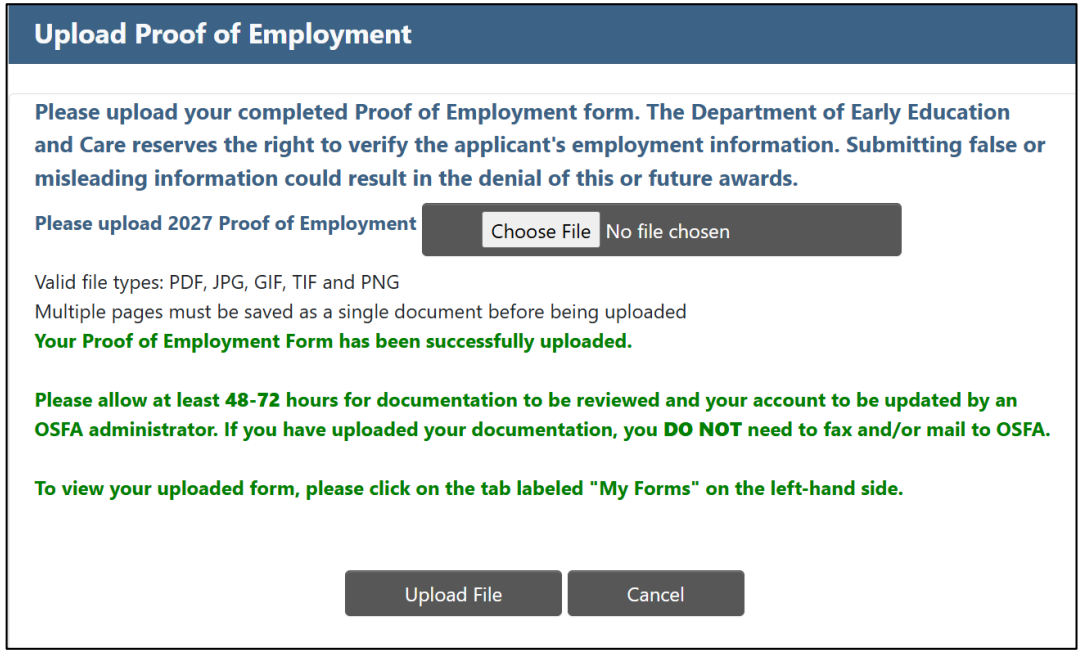
Print the PDF for supervisor signature

Upload Proof of Employment (POE)

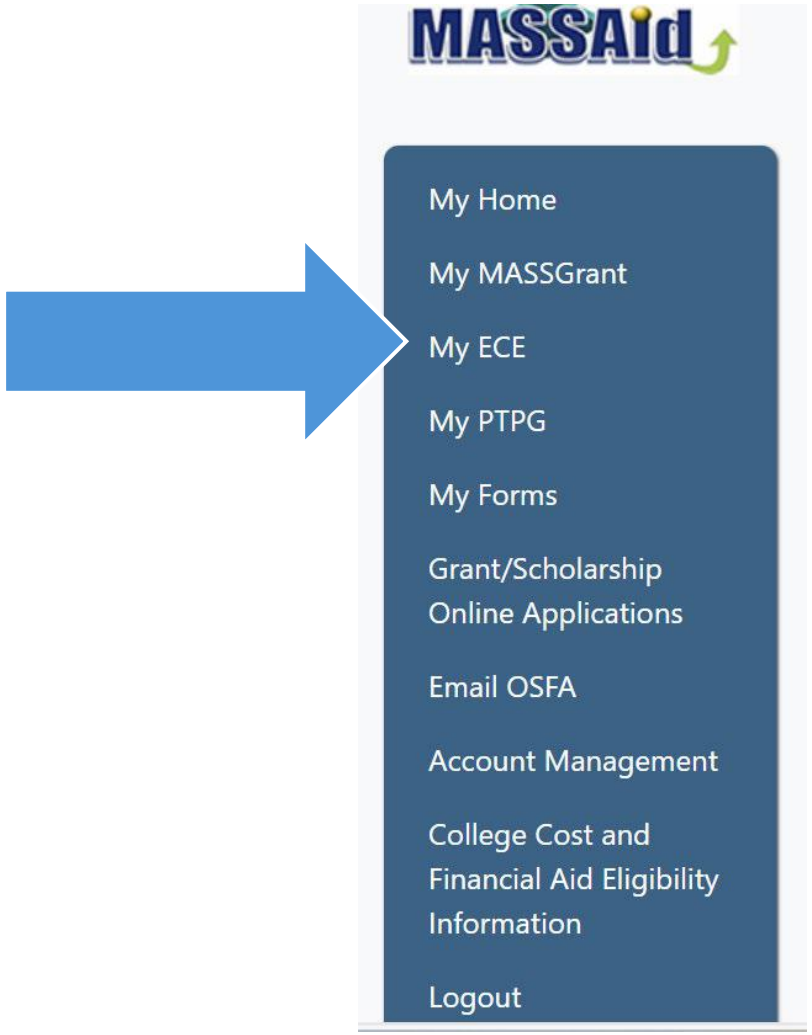
BEFORE



AFTER

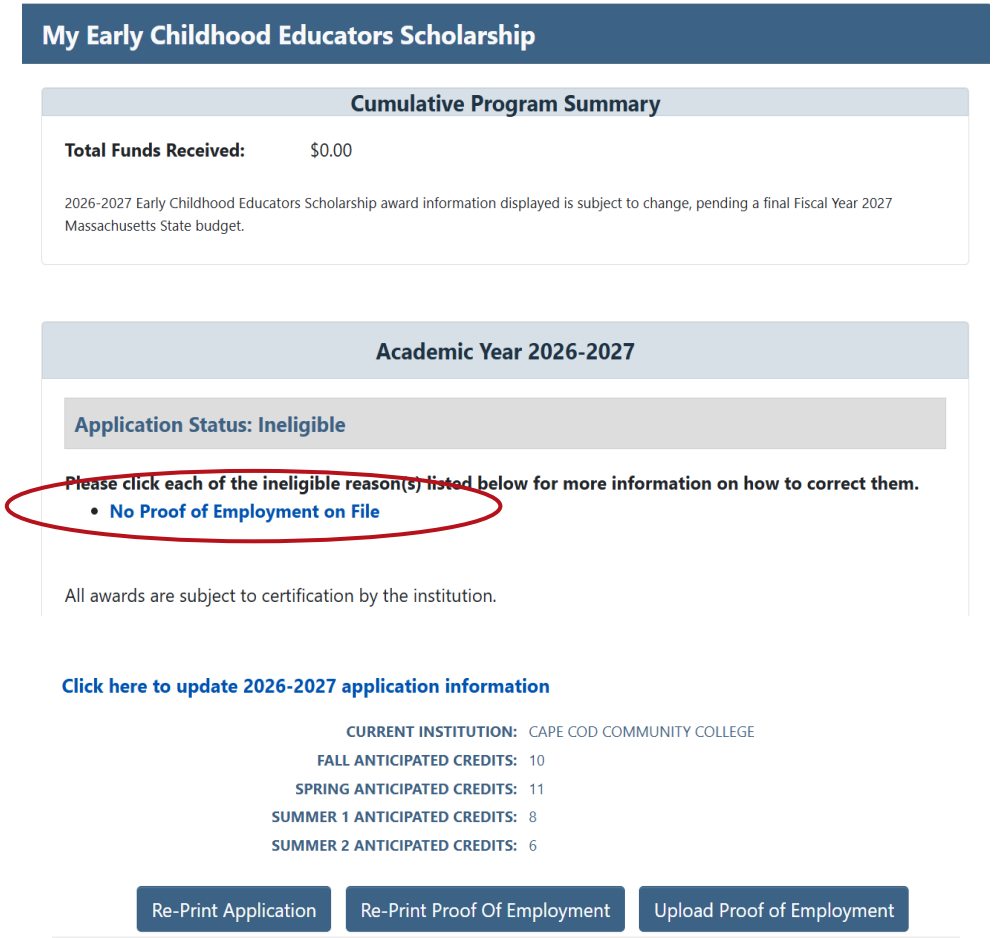


Navigating back to the Application

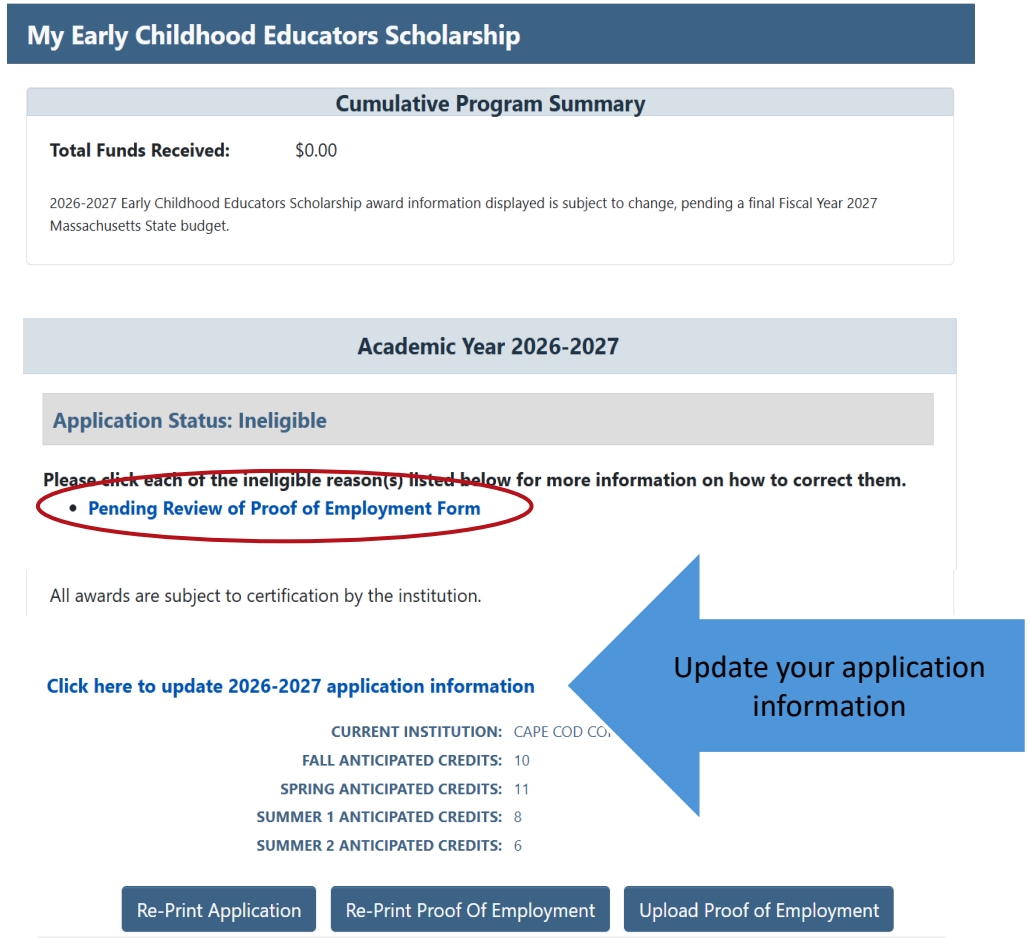


View Application Status

Before uploading POE



After uploading POE

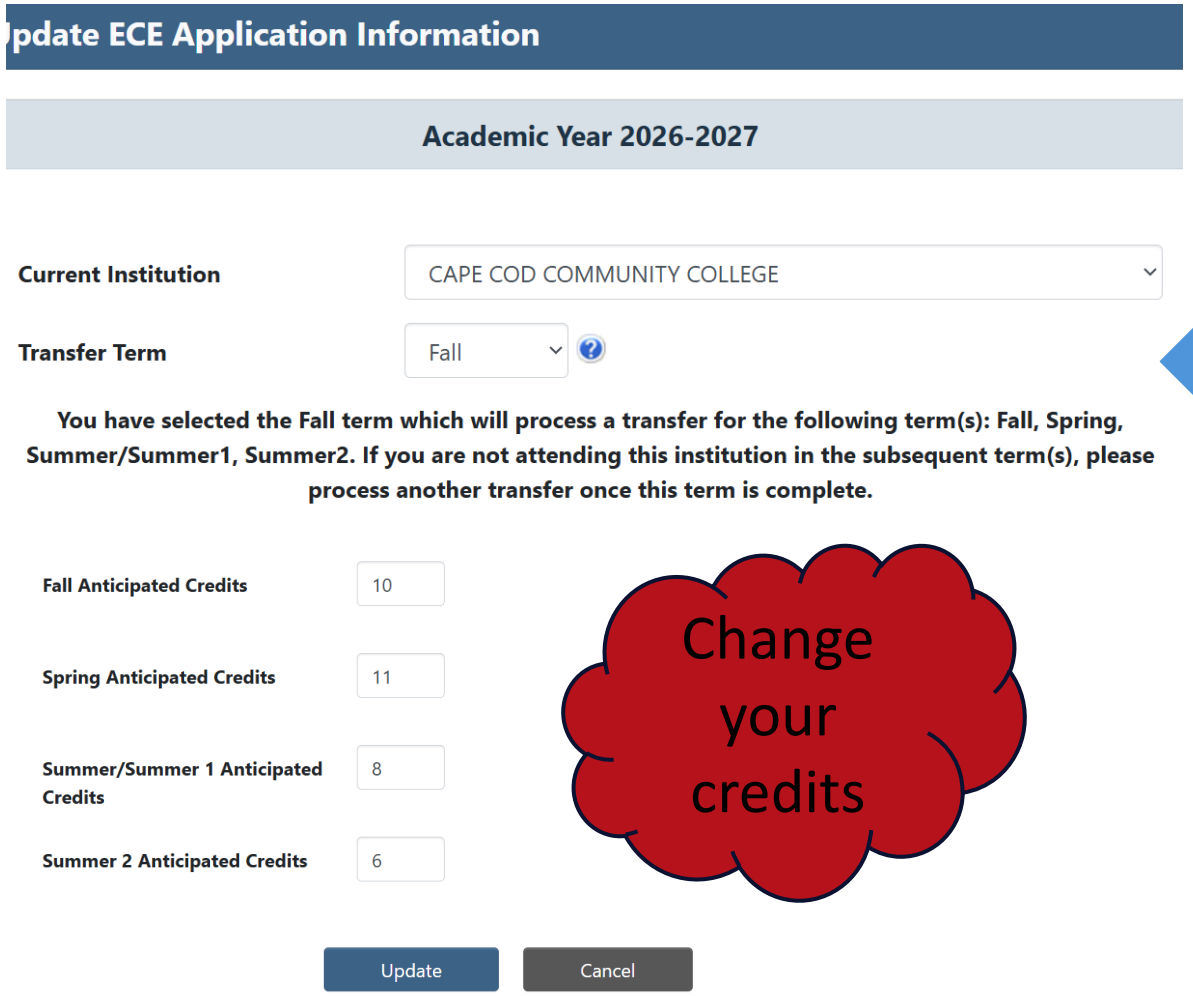


Update your application information

Update the Application

Change your school

1. Select your NEW school



2. Select the term you're starting at your new school.

Change your credits

What happens next?

- Monitor your email inbox. All information and notifications will be sent via email. **Read emails closely.**
- Allow time for DHE and EEC review (3-4 weeks).
- If you receive an email that you are “ineligible,” you will have 20 days to correct the reason for ineligibility. Instructions will be in the email.
- Award amount will remain as “pending” until your school “certifies” that you are enrolled and attending classes- usually at the end of add/drop period.

Resources

- Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Scholarship Information

- Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) Scholarship Information