

Support Higher Education for Immigrant Students in the FY24 State Budget!

House and Senate budget leaders will soon consider adoption of a state budget proposal to extend access to in-state tuition and state-funded financial aid to all high school graduates attending our public colleges and universities, regardless of their immigration status.

WHY THIS MATTERS Thousands of undocumented high school students in Massachusetts cannot complete their education because they must pay out-of-state tuition rates (up to 4 times the in-state rate), without access to state or federal financial aid—effectively denying some of our most ambitious high school graduates from continuing their education and contributing to the Massachusetts economy.



THE BUDGET PROPOSAL would give these students the same educational opportunities as their peers for attendance at our public colleges and universities. To be eligible, students must:

- Have attended a MA high school for at least 3 years, and graduated or attained a GED
- Provide their institution with proof of an SSN or ITIN (Individual Tax Identification number)
- Register for the Military Selective Service, if eligible
- Provide a sworn affidavit that they will apply for a Green Card or citizenship within 120 days of eligibility

4 reasons to support an inclusive education policy:

Our Commonwealth should continue its investment in these students, who arrived in the U.S. as children and have been educated in our public schools. There are an estimated 15,000 undocumented students currently enrolled in our primary schools. Massachusetts should make good on its investment by allowing these students to fulfill their educational potential.

Access to an affordable college education helps reverse declining enrollment rates. College enrollment in Massachusetts has declined by over 10% since 2015. Broader access generates higher enrollment and fresh revenue for our struggling public colleges and universities.

An affordable public higher education is an investment in an educated workforce. Immigrants in Massachusetts are 80% more likely than other state residents to start their own businesses, from mom-and-pop stores to tech startups. Nearly 25% of our entrepreneurs are immigrants. Immigrants also have strong community ties, making them more likely to remain and contribute to the Massachusetts economy.

These ambitious, hardworking students deserve the same opportunities as their peers. Massachusetts has a historic opportunity to join the over 23 states that have expanded public higher educational opportunities to undocumented high school graduates. Let's build on this legislature's support for our Commonwealth's immigrant communities!