

mbae Highlights & Achievements 2024



PHOTO: IGNITE READING

Leading the Call for an Impactful Early Literacy Intervention

In her FY2026 state budget, Governor Maura Healey proposed a bold new \$25 million state investment in high-dosage tutoring for early literacy that could serve 10,000 students across the state next school year.

The proposal comes amid an MBAE-led campaign to raise awareness about and support for a high-dosage tutoring program for first graders that is bringing about significant gains in grade level reading proficiency. Our advocacy also led to the inclusion of language in the Governor's 2025 Literacy Launch initiative allowing some of the \$20 million in funding to be used for high-dosage tutoring.

Ensuring all students are proficient readers by third grade is one of the Commonwealth's most urgent educational challenges. Students who don't learn to read by third grade can't read to learn, thus compromising all their learning in future grades.

Tutored students gained an **additional 5.4 months of learning** as compared to national averages.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
STUDY OF MA HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING

THE WORK AHEAD

An [MBAE report](#) and webinar in December highlighted new Johns Hopkins University research on the efficacy of the high-dosage tutoring pilot program in 13 Massachusetts districts. Over the next year, MBAE will work to get the recommendations in that report adopted. Key priorities are:

- ▶ Passage of legislation requiring all districts to use science-based literacy curricula to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality curriculum.
- ▶ An annual state investment of at least \$25 million for early literacy high-dosage tutoring for first grade students in high need communities.



A Critical Voice on a Foundational Issue: What Should it Take to Earn a High School Diploma

What should a high school diploma stand for in Massachusetts and what should students know and be able to do to earn one? These are critical and foundational questions that have an enormous impact on our whole K-12 education system and, because they impact our talent pipeline, on the state's economic competitiveness.

MBAE is very proud of the work we did over the past year defending the state policy we helped put in place in 1993 that required students to pass MCAS to earn a high school diploma. We were featured in sponsored debates all over the state, served as panelists at forums, authored op-eds, were quoted in media stories, and played a leadership role in the campaign to defeat ballot question 2.

THE WORK AHEAD

Although the ballot question did not play out as we had hoped, the organization's work on this issue broadened our exposure and put us in a position to lead a conversation about what the high school experience should look like, and how we define and measure success.

MBAE is pleased to have been named to the Governor's Statewide Graduation Requirement Council charged with creating a new uniform high school graduation standard. We intend to help shape that standard and continue to activate the many business leaders and organizations who rallied on this initiative over the past year.

43 affiliates
REPRESENTING
over 35,000
employers
ACROSS THE STATE

MBAE's Business Affiliate Network Continues to Grow

MBAE added the **North Shore Chamber of Commerce** and **MassMEP (Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership)** to our Affiliate Network which includes chambers of commerce, industry associations, and other business groups who share our commitment to ensuring all students get the education they need to be successful in college, career, and citizenship.

Early College Continues to Grow; Poised for Greater Impact

A top MBAE priority, Early College continues to grow and deliver strong results for students. Outcomes data for the class of 2023 show:

- Early College continues to serve majority Black and Latino students; and half of the students are from low-income homes.
- Early College students continue to be significantly more likely to enroll immediately in college than matched peers, non-EC students at their high schools, and students at non Early College high schools. This is especially true for Black and Latino students and students from low-income homes.

The Early College initiative is a tremendous bright spot in the Commonwealth's college and career pathways landscape and given its consistently strong results and potential to address growing workforce needs, MBAE supports significant expansion of it. We supported and were glad to see increased state spending for it in the FY2025 budget, and continued funding of the new pathways line item created in the FY2024 state budget that can be used to expand Early College and other pathways initiatives. The Governor's FY2026 budget shows continued support as evidenced by another increase in funding.

Five new Early College programs received state designations in 2024. There are now **55 designated programs across 62 high schools and 28 colleges and universities.**

THE WORK AHEAD

We were encouraged by the decision of the joint Boards of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education this year to work on a **5- to 10-year strategic plan for Early College**. This planning process is an important opportunity to ensure the state is setting ambitious goals and evolving the program to meet the needs



of students as well as employers who need educated talent to sustain and grow their businesses.

MBAE supports the many educators who want to create stronger career connections within their Early College programs. In early 2025, MBAE will **collaborate with MassINC to introduce a blueprint for an Early College pathway to careers in the life sciences industry**. This follows our collaboration in 2023 on a blueprint for how Early College can create stronger pathways into clinical health professions.

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Pam Eddinger
President
Bunker Hill
Community College



Honoring our Founders, Celebrating Leadership

On June 25, MBAE presented its first annual **Education Impact Awards** at a luncheon celebrating the business community's commitment to and support for excellence in public education. The awards were established in honor of MBAE's co-founders Paul Reville and Jack Rennie who played pivotal roles in making Massachusetts a national leader in K-12 education.

The first **MBAE Leadership in Education Award** was presented to **Paul Reville** for a lifetime of service in support of student success. Beginning in 2025, the award will be renamed the MBAE Paul Reville Leadership in Education Award.

The **MBAE Jack Rennie Award for Business Impact in Education** was presented to **State Street**, for the substantial contribution the company has made to improving educational opportunities for Massachusetts students.

We look forward to our second annual awards luncheon which will be held on June 3, 2025.



NEW MEMBERS

MBAE was very pleased to welcome talented and committed leaders to our membership to act on their interest in improving educational and economic opportunity for students.



Jim DuPont



Brian Gilmore



Jamie McDonald



Kerry McGraw



Chiquita Rice



Marie Schwartz

MBAE members inform our work by sharing their experience and perspective on education and workforce development issues. Visit mbae.org/membership or contact Pam O'Donnell at podonnell@mbae.org to learn more about becoming a member and to support our work.

mbae

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