

INCREASING ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: STATE AND REGIONAL EFFORTS



NEBHE's Mission

NEBHE promotes greater education opportunities and services for the residents of New England and its more than 250 colleges and universities.

It works across the six New England states to:

- Help leaders assess, develop and implement sound education practices and policies of regional significance;
- Promote regional cooperation and programs that encourage the efficient use and sharing of educational resources;
- Strengthen the relationship between higher education and the economic well-being and quality of life in New England.

NEBHE's Key Leadership Roles:

Policy Leadership and Dialogue
Raising Awareness
Leadership Convener and Bridge
Builder
Regional Collaboration Platform

Capacity Builder
Innovation Accelerator
Consultant and Advisor
Program Developer and Manager

NEBHE Over the Years...

Special Regional Commissions

- Higher education & the economy
- Technology & distance learning
- Higher education & employability

Surveys, Studies and Publications

- Admissions vacancies survey
- Leader opinions and emerging policy issues
- Regional competitiveness
- *The New England Journal of Higher Education*
- *Guide to New England Colleges & Universities*

Policy and Research Reports

- Equity and pluralism
- Online learning
- Multi-tribal college feasibility

Institutional/Partner Networks

- Library Information Network
- Compact for Faculty Diversity
- College Ready New England
- Higher Education Innovation Challenge

Resource Sharing & Cost Savings

- Regional Student Program/Tuition Break
- Master Property Insurance Program

Talent and Labor Supply Studies

- K-12 teachers
- Biotech industry
- Legal education
- Nursing & health sciences

Capacity-Building Programs

- Photon/Problem-based Learning
- Developmental math reform (Khan Academy)
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
- State financial aid redesign projects
- Conferences & professional development events

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

- SARA helps regional higher education institutions to navigate the inconsistent, complicated and expensive maze of regulatory processes and fees related to delivering distance education.
- Qualifying institutions located in all six NEBHE states, plus affiliate members New Jersey and New York, may benefit from SARA membership.
- Benefits of SARA:
 - Enables more efficient provision of distance education to a broader market
 - Reduces number of applications to other states, as well as costs for institutions
 - Expands educational offerings to residents



State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

- **Prior to SARA:** To be in compliance with each state where an institution offers its distance education programs, the institution must comply with each state's regulations.

In 2016, UMassOnline estimated that Commonwealth's 29 public institutions each spent over \$50,000 in fees alone to obtain online program authorizations in states totaling \$1,450,000 annually. Additionally there are substantial costs of staff time.

- **With SARA:** Each independent and public institution offering distance learning to out of state students pays small state and national fees, based on full-time enrollment, for authorization to operate in the other 49 member states plus the District of Columbia and two U.S. territories.

Based on the 2016 information, \$1,450,000 in annual fees for public institutions will be reduced to approximately \$200,000.



State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

- Participating Massachusetts Institutions

Bay State College
Simmons University
MCPHS University
Lesley University
Babson College
Laboure College
Emerson College
Northeastern University
Boston College
Lasell College

Cambridge College
Bay Path University
Boston Graduate School of
Psychoanalysis
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Springfield College
Regis College
Northpoint Bible College
Gordon College
Tufts University

Fisher College
Merrimack College
Suffolk University
Northern Essex Community
College
Fitchburg State University
UMass Dartmouth
Springfield Technical
Community College
UMass Amherst



NEW ENGLAND BOARD of HIGHER EDUCATION



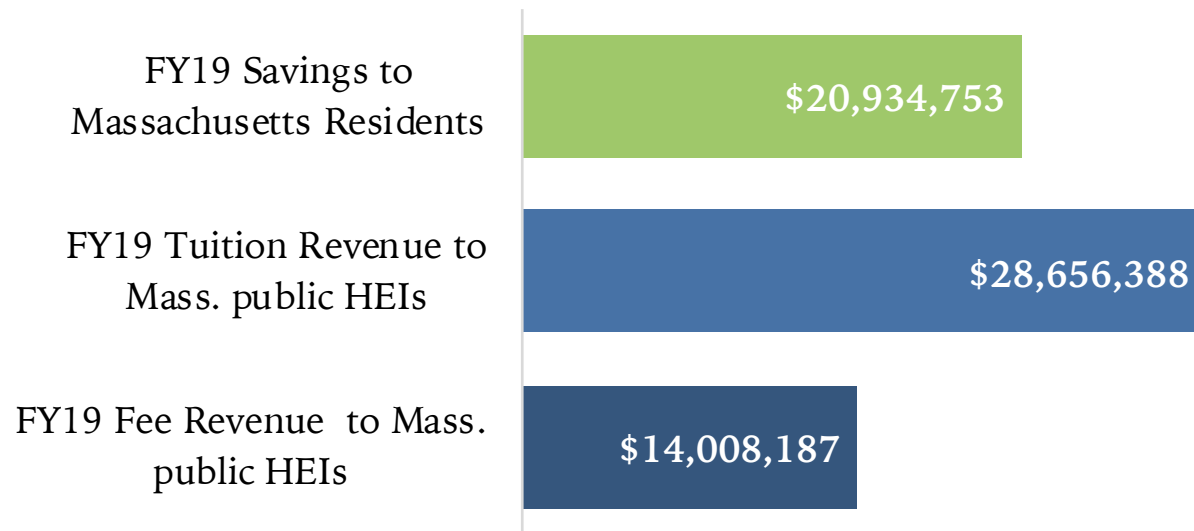
- Massachusetts residents save millions of dollars in tuition while having access to 400+ tuition-discounted degree programs at public colleges and universities in the five other New England states –including specialized fields of study not offered by Massachusetts public HEIs.
- Massachusetts public institutions receive millions of dollars in tuition revenue from eligible RSP students, who are residents of the other five New England states.

Tuition Break Benefits to Massachusetts

Average annual tuition savings: \$9,100

Number of Massachusetts residents: 2,645

Number of New England residents at Mass. Public HEIs: 3,403



Cost Savings

- NEBHE offers cost containment strategies in insurance and technology in response to recognized needs of postsecondary institutions. All education institutions or agencies in New England can participate.

- **Technology Program**

Institutions and organizations can purchase goods or services knowing that the due diligence in selecting the vendor has already been done.

- **Cyber Insurance**

NEBHE offers Cyber Insurance, an approach that analyzes the cyber threat environment, assesses vulnerabilities in security through controls and determines financial exposure.

- **Student Health Insurance**

Benefits and services include coverage for a wide array of student groups, as well as a commitment to promote the value of student health and student insurance to higher education leadership.

- **Master Property Program**

The MPP is a regional collaborative venture that provides comprehensive property coverage, specifically tailored to the needs of today's college campuses, while reducing insurance costs and improving asset protection.

Policy & Research

Policy & Research provides timely information, research and analysis on issues related to decision-makers and the public throughout New England. It seeks to:

1. Support and sustain more affordable educational opportunities through smart investment in higher education
2. Elevate student success through innovative, evidence-based policies and practices
3. Strengthen connections between higher education and the regional economy

**Research
Policy Analysis
Legislative Resources**

**Convening & Facilitating
Collaboration
Consulting & Technical Assistance**

Recent P&R Activities



- **Commission on Higher Education & Employability**

Every graduate of New England's Postsecondary Institutions should have:

- Foundational skills in literacy, numeracy and communication, including the ability to work in teams, communicate clearly verbally and in writing, and solve problems
- An individual career plan prepared early in their postsecondary experience
- At least one paid and/or credit-bearing work-integrated learning experiences
- Achievement of digital competencies related to their course of study, career goals and the fast changing economy
- Attainment of an affordable credential that is employer-informed and is aligned to career pathways

- **High Value Credentials for New England**

Providing individuals, institutions, state policy leaders and employers with the tools to:

- Develop a common language to describe credentials
- Understand the value of credentials
- Identify critical education and employment pipelines
- Evaluate the skills and competencies obtained by earning a credential



Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC)

- An ad hoc committee of 24-30 distinguished legislators from the six New England states
- The LAC was convened by the NEBHE Board in 2013 to:
 - Engage New England state legislators in continuous conversations regarding key legislative activities and agendas;
 - Exchange higher education policymaking perspectives in New England and support increased interstate collaboration among legislators;
 - Provide timely research and information to participating members of the LAC through presentations by state, regional and national policy experts; and
 - Inform and advise NEBHE policy research activities.
- Current MA LAC members

Rep. Pat Haddad
Rep. Sean Garballey
Rep. Jeffrey Roy

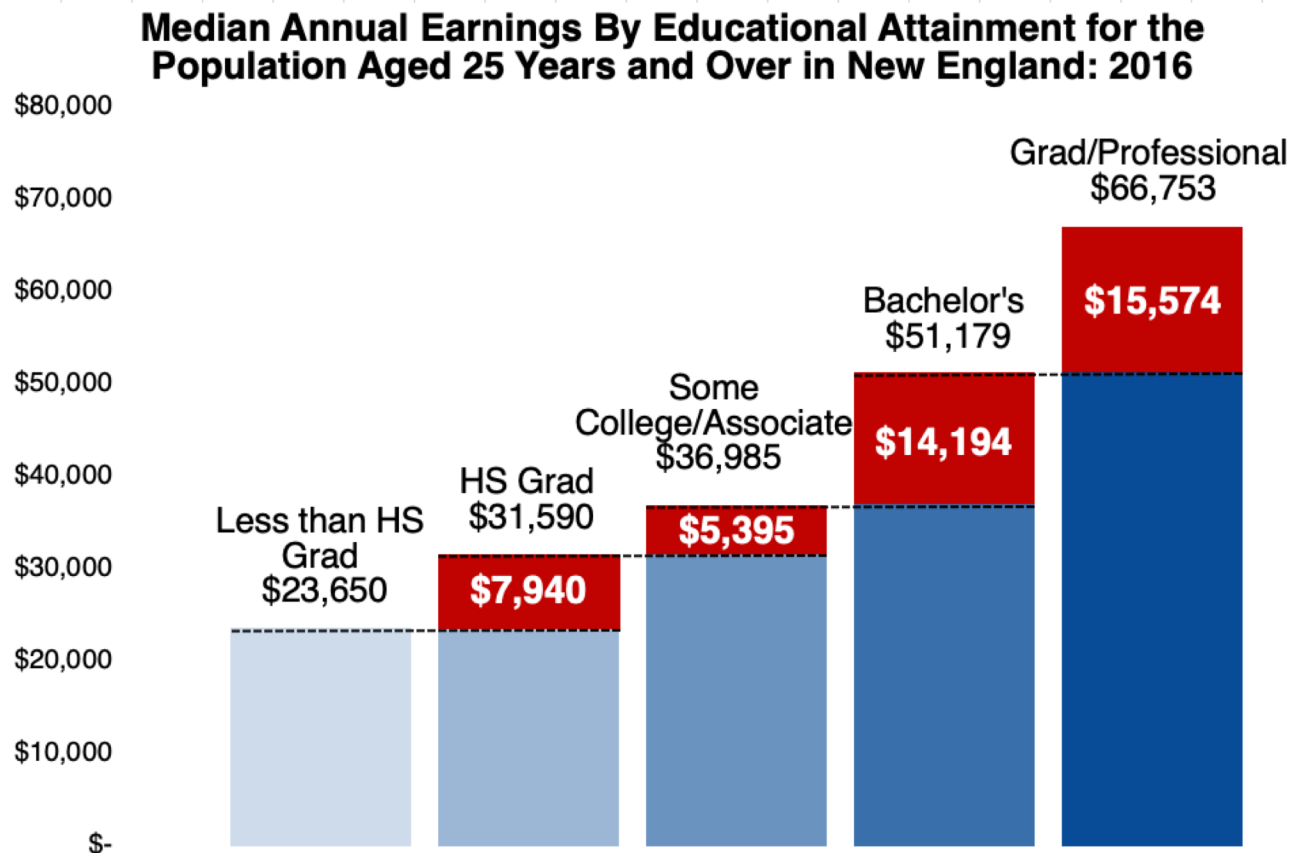
Sen. Marc Pacheco
Sen. Michael Moore

Board of Delegates' 2019-20 Priorities

- Demonstrate the public value of postsecondary education to New England and its residents through expanded advocacy and outreach to key stakeholders;
- Enhance and expand postsecondary opportunities for adult learners through increased access, affordability, and targeted programs to promote successful completion;
- Advance PreK-16+ alignment to promote college and career readiness and the successful transition from PreK-12 to postsecondary opportunities and success; and
- Develop new models for cost-saving collaboration to help institutions change business practices, lower operating costs, and contain student tuition and fees.

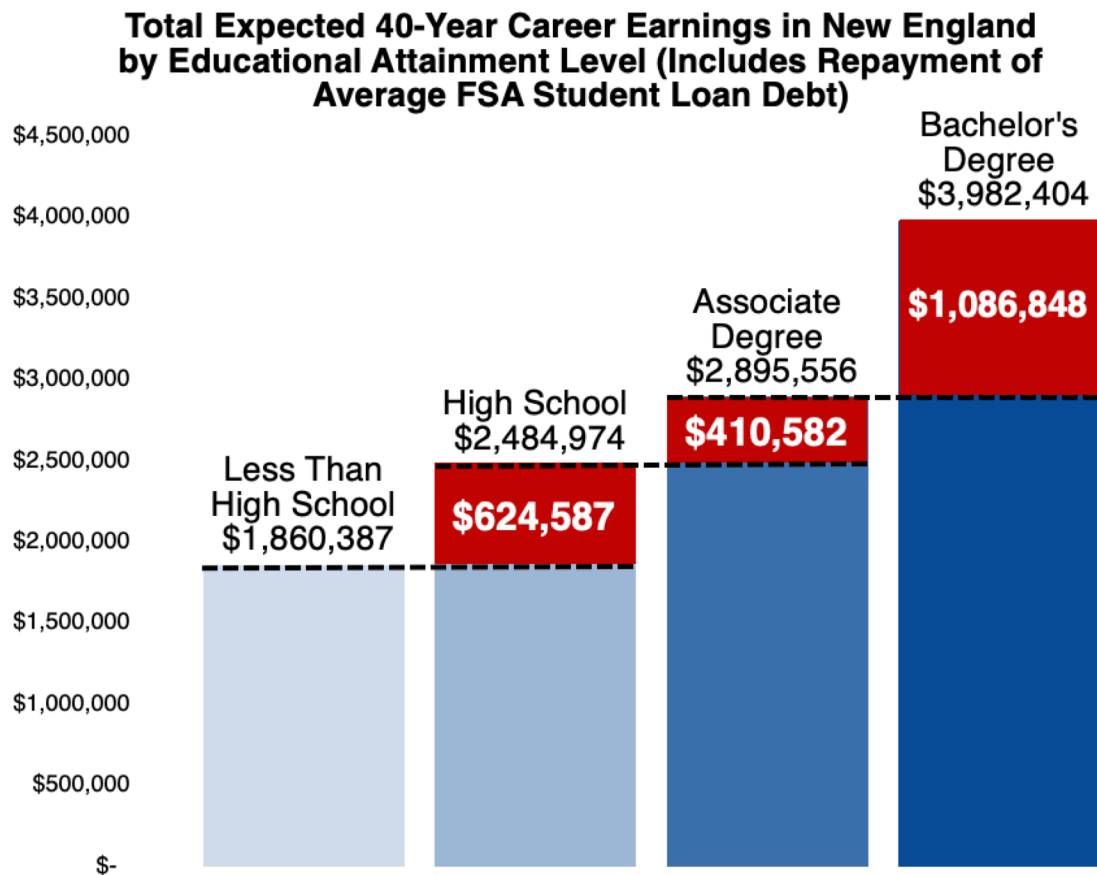
The Value of Postsecondary Education

- Annual Earning Potential of Postsecondary Education



The Value of Postsecondary Education

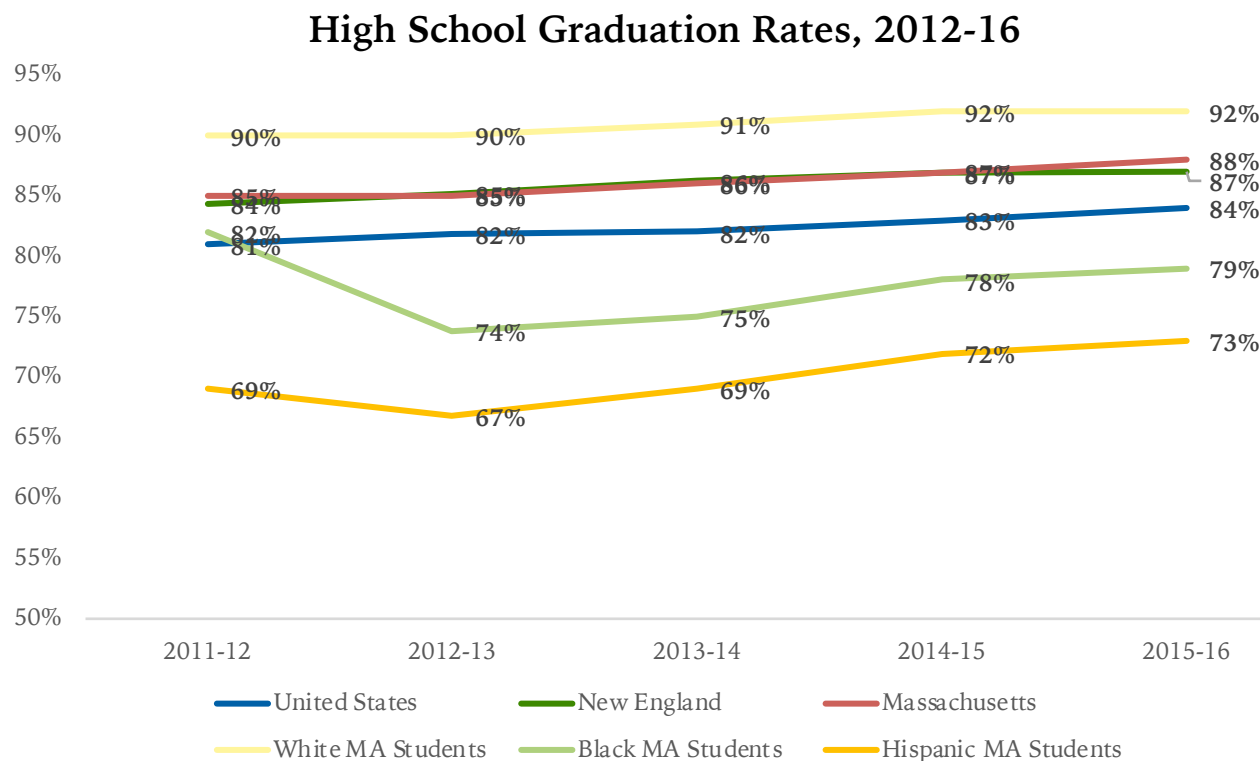
- Lifetime Earning Potential of Postsecondary Education



ACCESS

K-12 to Postsecondary Pipeline

- High school graduation rates have been steadily increasing, and, in some cases, plateauing for several years in New England
- However, there is much room for improvement in helping Black and Hispanic students achieve their high school diplomas
- Readiness measures, such as the share of those meeting SAT college readiness benchmarks, show that high schoolers need more than a diploma to be prepared for college and careers

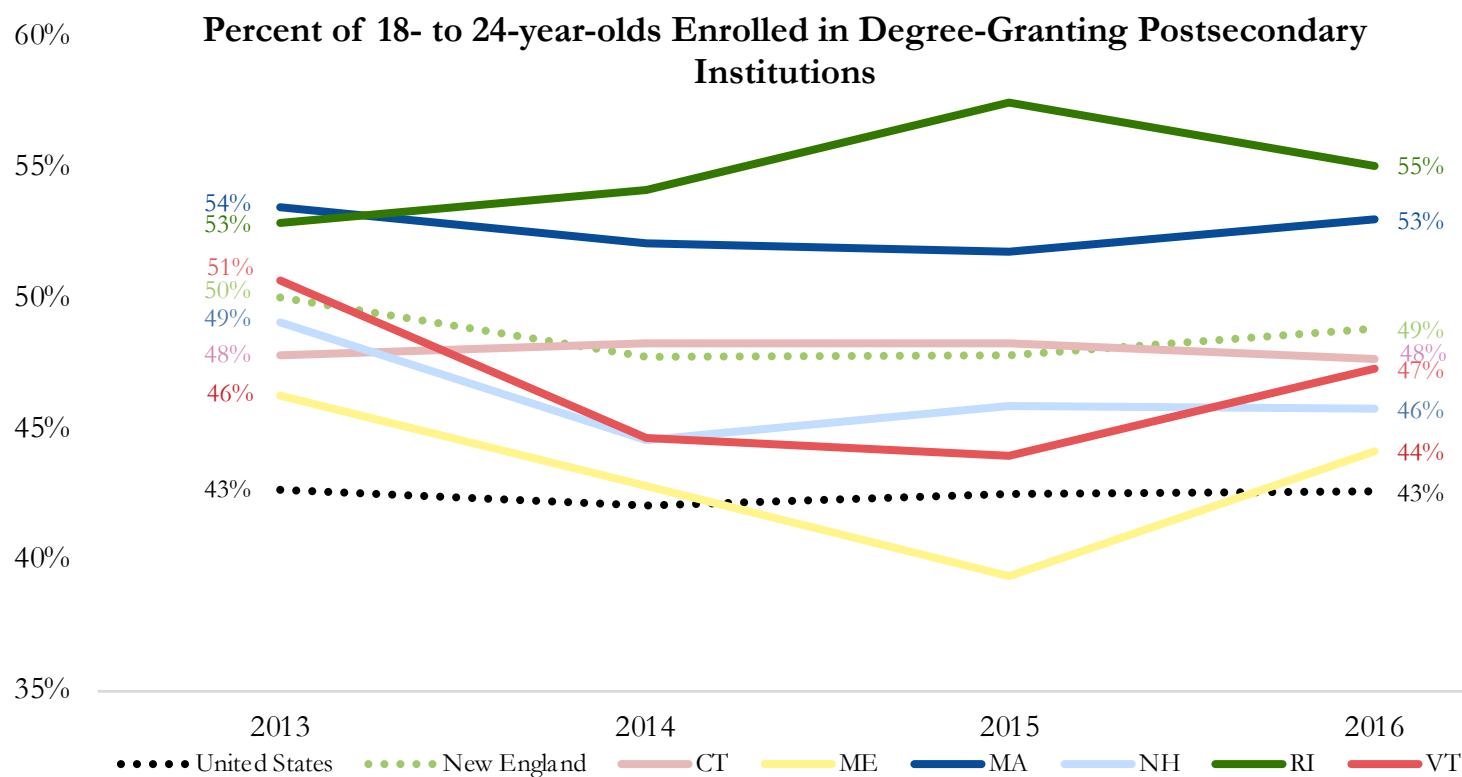


Source: NEBHE analysis of National Center of Education Statistics Digest

Note: The ACGR is the percentage of the students in this cohort who graduate within four years. States calculate the ACGR for individual schools and districts and for the state as a whole using detailed data that track each student over time.

K-12 to Postsecondary Pipeline

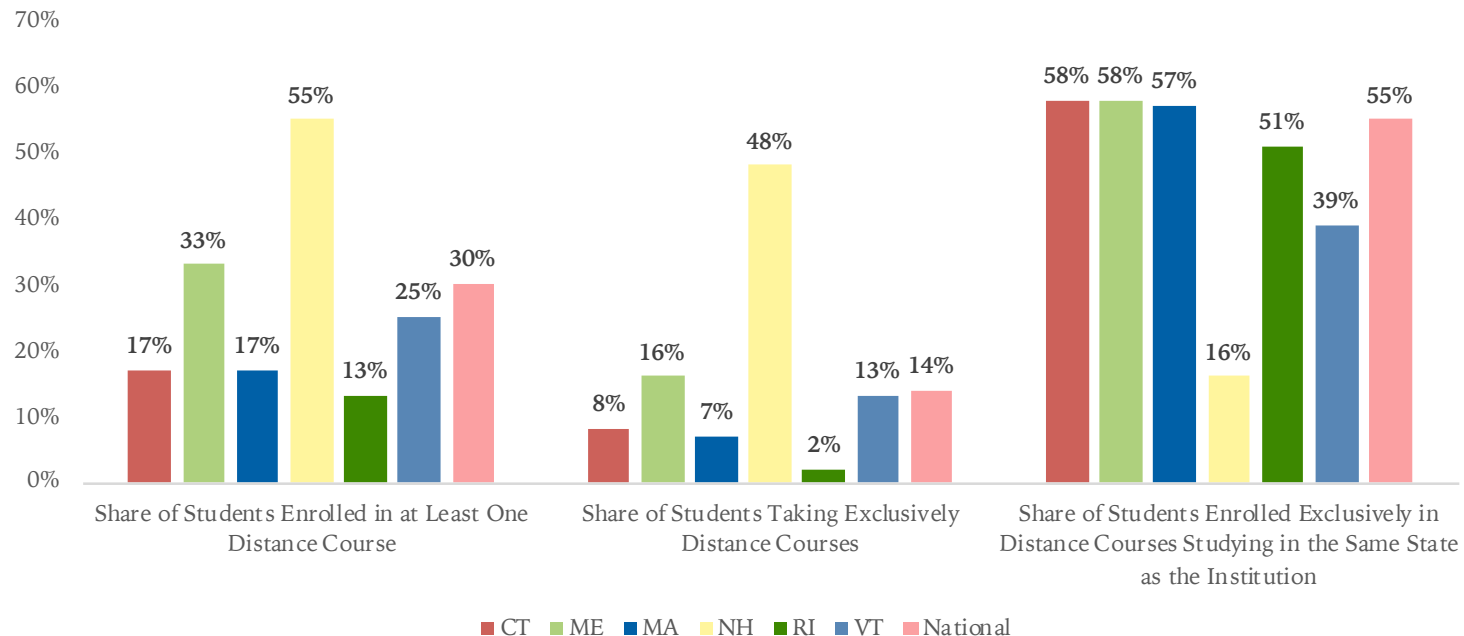
- Compared to the national and regional average enrollment patterns of 18-24 year-olds, Massachusetts has a strong college enrollment trend
- Nationally, the share of students of color enrolling in college has increased approximately 15 percentage points – largely driven by the increase in Hispanic student enrollment
- However, Black students are more likely than any other student group to enroll in for-profit institutions



Distance Learning

- Excluding New Hampshire (an outlier due to Southern New Hampshire University's student makeup and program delivery), the region's distance learning sector does not meet national benchmarks on the metrics below – representing a potential growth market
- Distance learning, paired with competency-based education and strong advising models, can greatly improve access to postsecondary education for working adults, veterans and others

Distance Learning Trends in New England, 2015



State Policy Highlights

Early College, Dual and Concurrent Enrollment

- Approximately **34%** of high schoolers take courses for postsecondary credit
- These opportunities promote the going-college mindset, key for reducing gaps in postsecondary attainment
- Students have the opportunity to save money by earning college credit in high school

Consider policies that:

- Support pathways into in-demand, high-wage industries and occupations
- Include earning an industry-recognized credential
- Open up delivery models to better serve rurally-isolated students

Student Transfer

- More than **two-thirds** of bachelor's degree earners today have changed colleges at least once
- Students who transfer lose **13 credits**, on average, already earned and paid for

Consider pilots that:

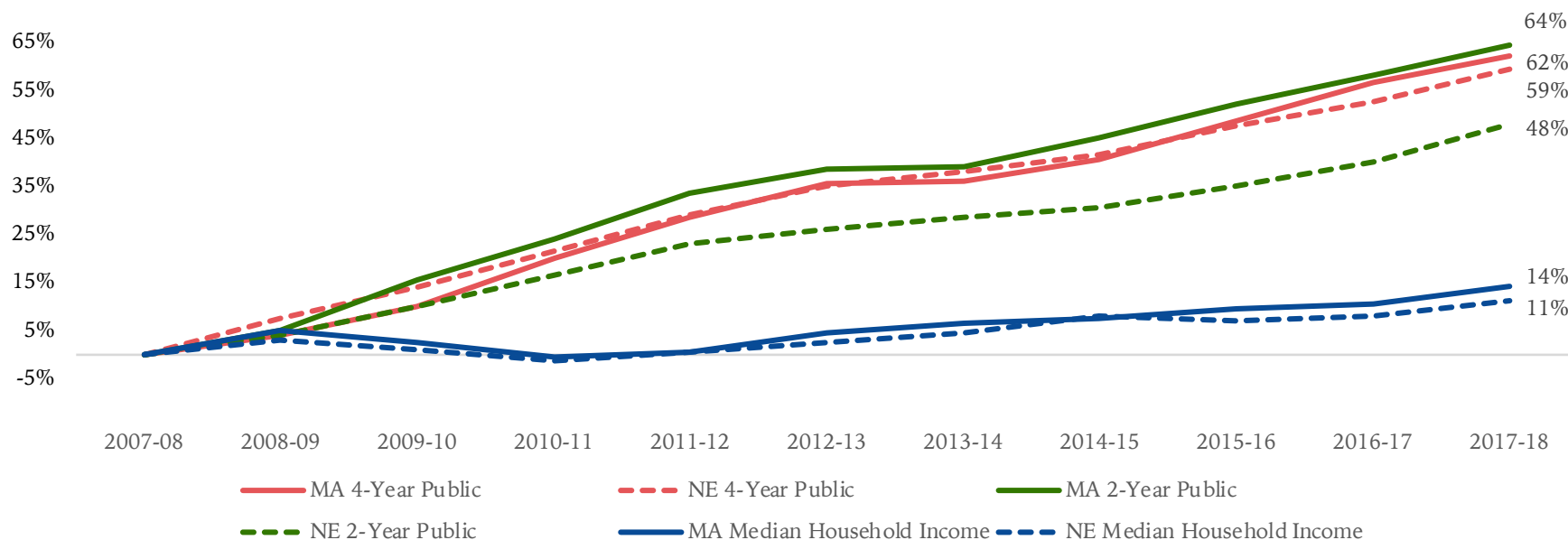
- Open up transfer agreements for lower division courses like College Math and English Composition across state lines
- Ease transfer between community colleges and nearby private colleges and universities

AFFORDABILITY

Tuition & Fees of Public Colleges

- In the last 10 years, growth in MA's public college tuition and fees has exceeded the regional average
- In MA, and across New England, stagnant wages have made the growing cost of postsecondary education more acute

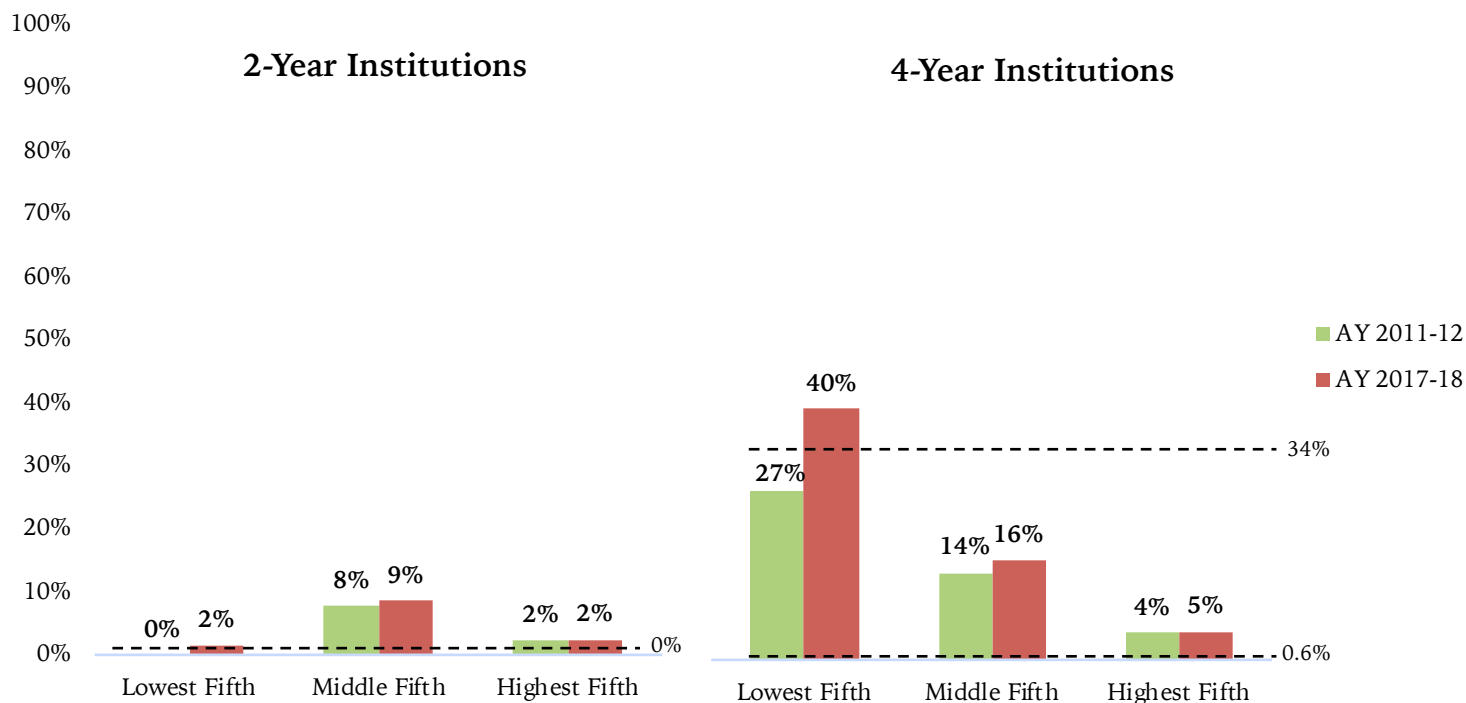
Figure 4: MA vs. NE - Changes in Tuition, Required Fees, and Income in 2017-18 Relative to 2007-08



Tuition & Fees of Public Colleges

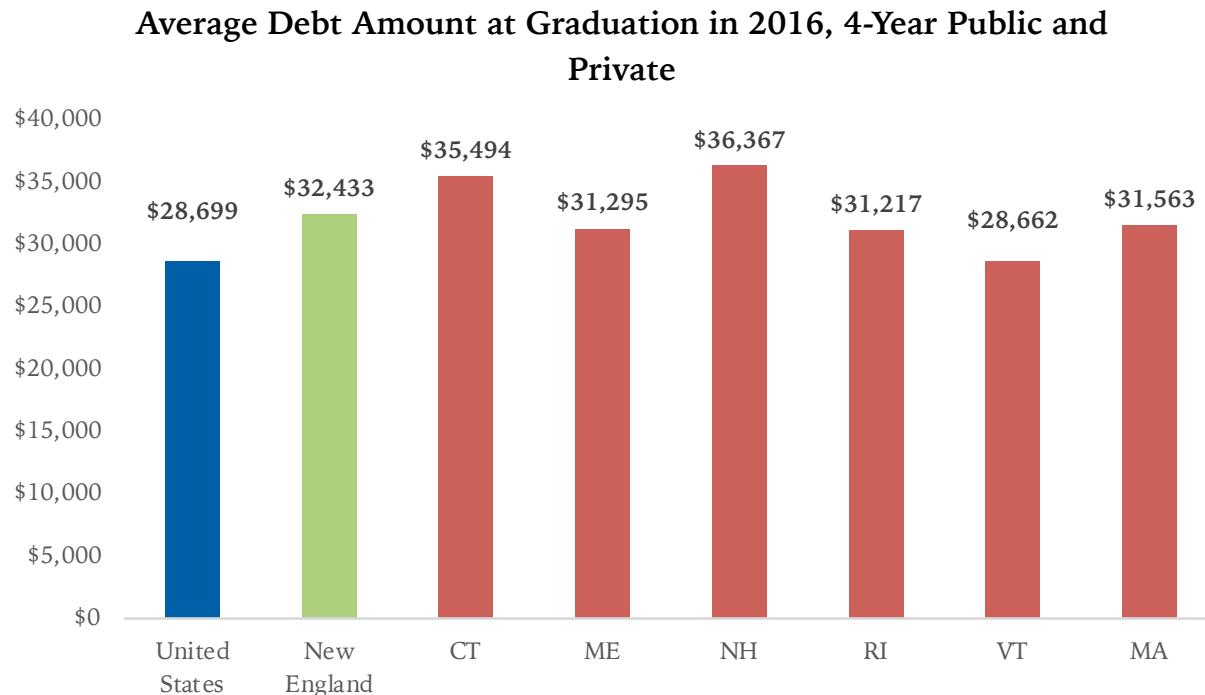
- Tuition and fees at MA's community colleges averages \$6,131, a 16% increase over 5 years and slightly higher than the regional average of \$5,193
- Tuition and fees at MA's 4-year colleges and universities averages \$11,420, a 10% increase over 5 years and slightly lower than the regional average of \$11,596

Share of Income Needed to Pay Average Tuition and Required Fees by Income Quintile After Maximum Pell Grant, Massachusetts: AY 2011-12 vs. AY 2017-18



Student Loan Debt

- 60% of MA 4-year college graduates take out student loans to pay for their education
- While MA 4-year college graduates take on slightly less student debt than the regional average, their average student loan burden is \$3,000 more than the national average
- Nationally, black bachelor's degree recipients leave college with higher average debt than students from any other racial group. Hispanic students graduated with lower than average debt. This pattern holds for associate degree recipients, as well.



State Policy Highlights

Open Educational Resources

- Students at four-year colleges and universities spend between \$1,240 and \$1,440 per year on textbooks
- The majority of department chairs and faculty agree that the cost of books is a serious problem for students
- A study at the University of Georgia on the impact of OER shows that access to OER boosts course performance, especially for Pell recipients, part-time students and populations underserved by higher education

Consider supporting:

- DHE's efforts to scale use of OER state-wide

Free College & Promise Proposals

- In 2019, 45 pieces of legislation in 19 states proposing free college have been filed
- Historically, free college proposals eliminate tuition and fees for students matriculating directly from high school and often into community colleges

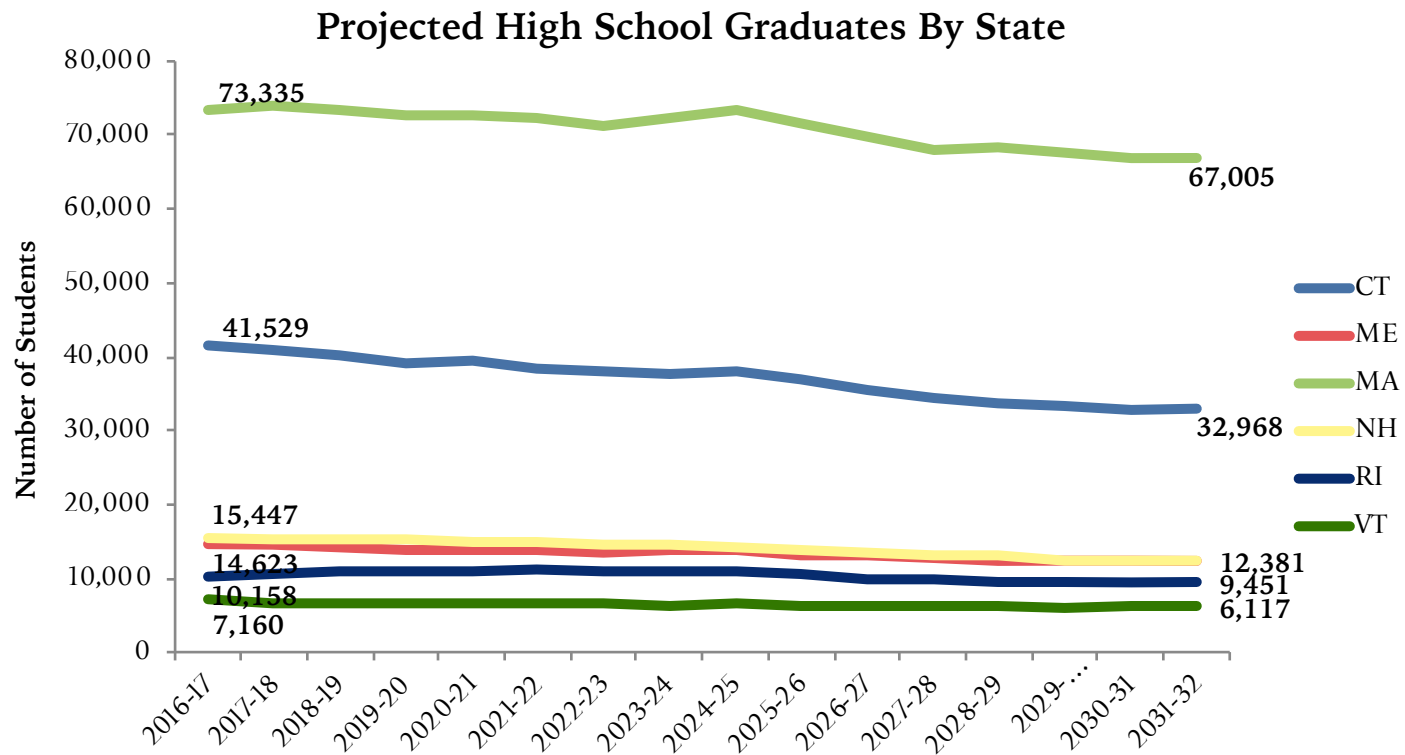
Consider new iterations that:

- Target other important populations of learners, such as adults
- Expand free tuition to four-year institutions (SD 225)
- Are limited to specific localities
- Require post-graduation residency or work requirements

EQUITY

Demographic Headwinds

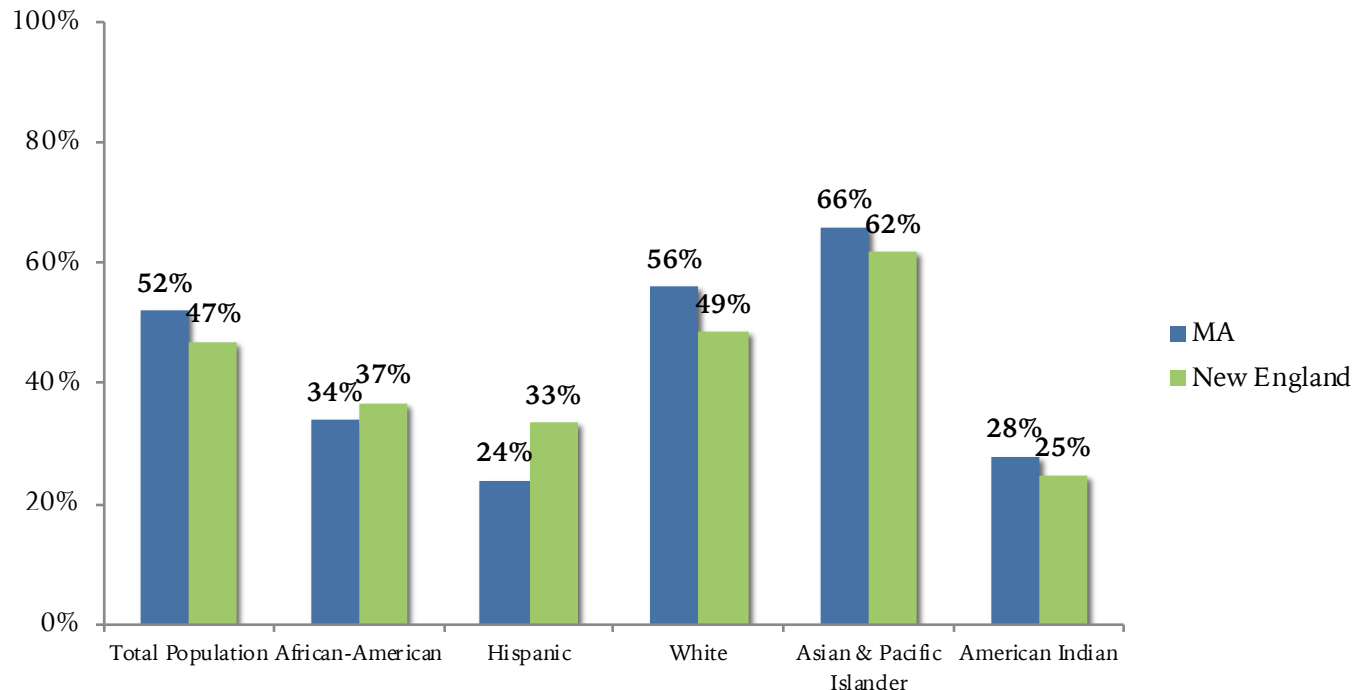
- The number of high school graduates in New England is projected to fall 14% by 2032
- In MA, the decline will be less acute – a projected fall of 12% -- driven primarily by fewer white students
- The growth in the number of Black (+18%), Hispanic (+58%) and Asian (+47%) high school graduates will greatly offset the decline in white high school graduates



Postsecondary Attainment

- However, existing inequities must be addressed in order to serve growing populations of students of color
- While MA residents have a higher attainment rate than the regional average, Black and Hispanic adults have lower attainment rates than their New England peers
- Postsecondary attainment has downstream effects on the state's social and economic welfare

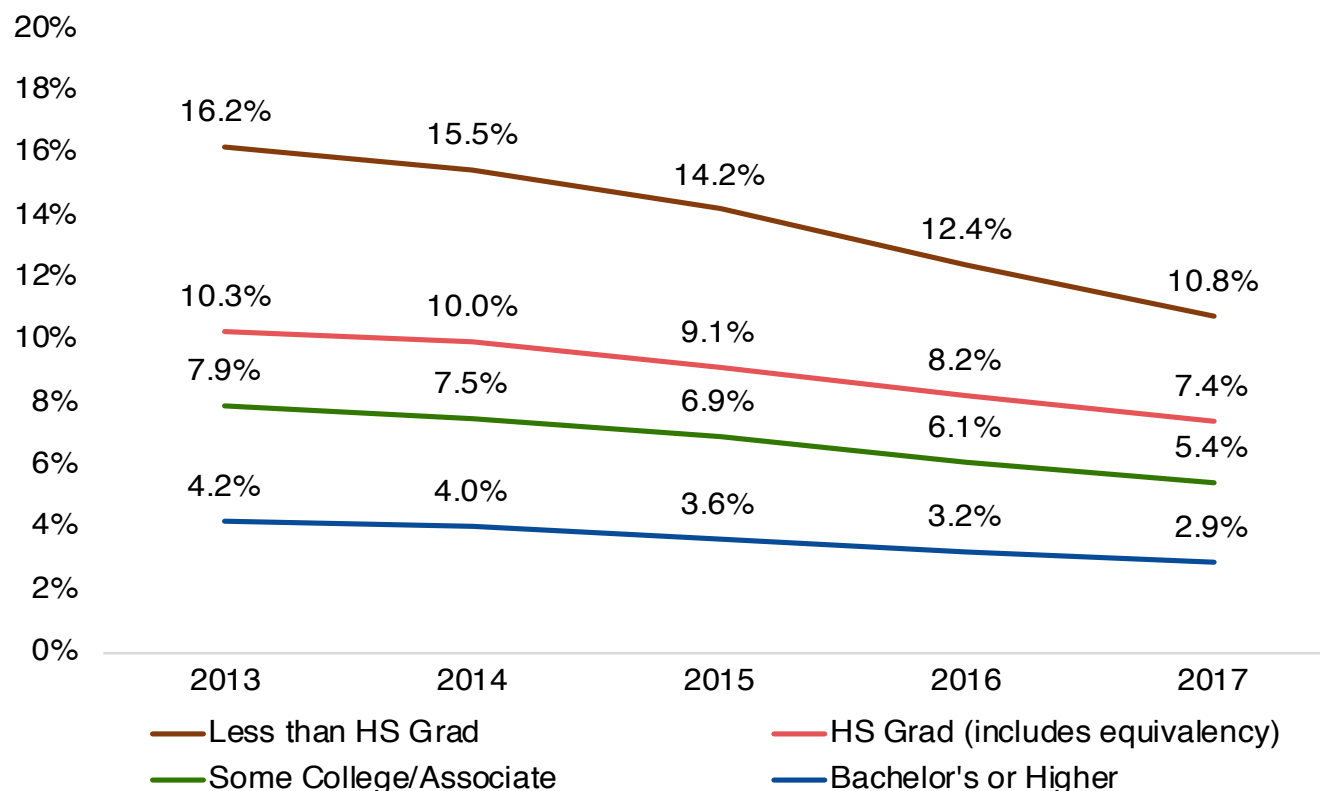
Attainment Rates by Demographic Groups, 2017



Postsecondary Attainment & Unemployment

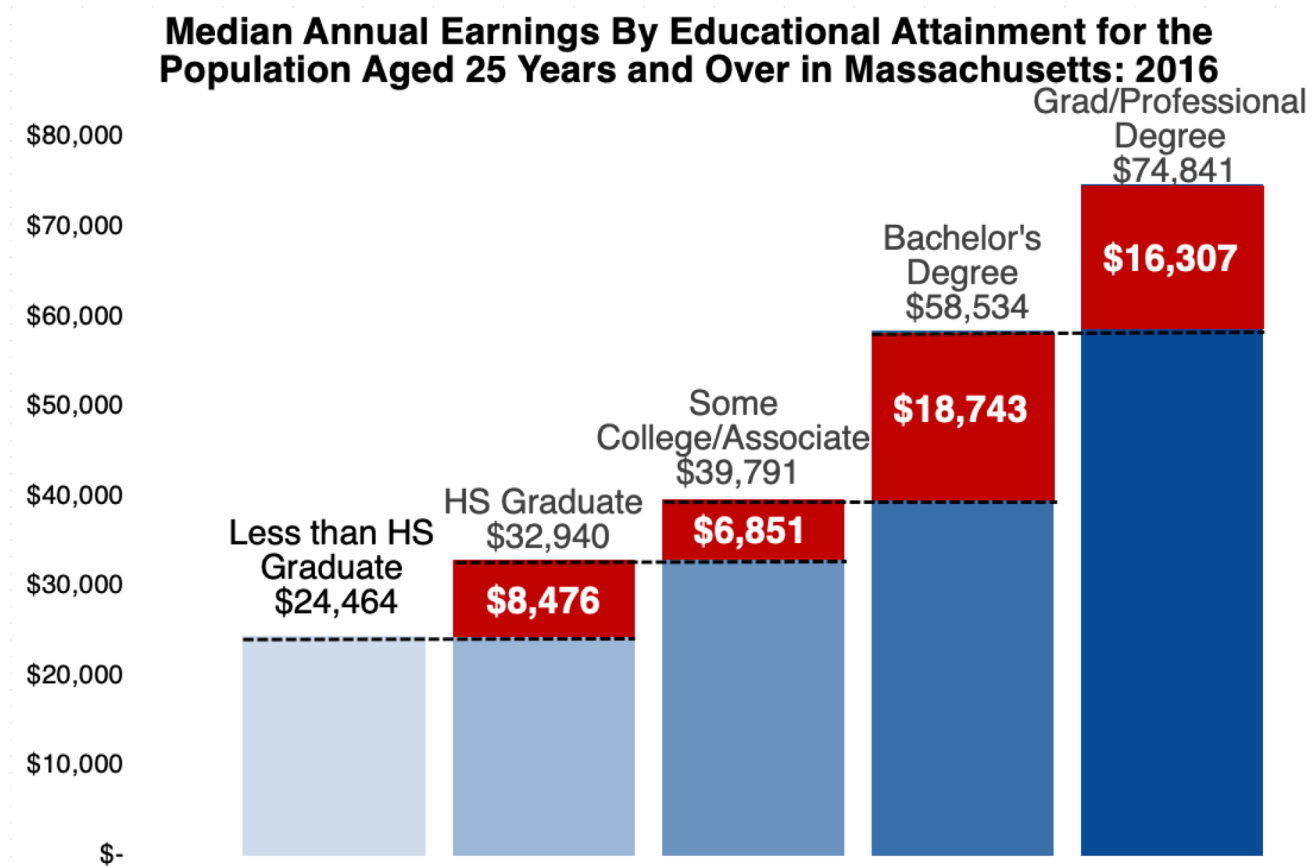
- New England residents with Bachelor's or Associate's degrees are more likely to be insulated from economic downturns and to be seen as able to fill a hiring need by the region's employers
- Approximately 70% of next year's job openings in MA will require a postsecondary credential

Unemployment Rate for Population Ages 25-64 Years by Educational Attainment Level in New England: 2013-2017



The Earnings Premium of Postsecondary Education

- Across New England, the benefit of earning a postsecondary credential is well established – across all levels of attainment
- Therefore, increasing access to affordable, stackable postsecondary credentials of value is critical to alleviating income inequality and skills gaps, which impact people of color more than their white peers



State Policy Highlight: Identifying and Incentivizing Completion of High Value Credentials

- It's more important than ever that the credential marketplace is demystified through:
 - Increased transparency
 - A shared language to describe, compare and connect credentials
 - Clear linkages between credential pathways, in-demand skills and competencies and employment outcomes



Apprenticeship



Badge



Certificate



Certification



Degree



Diploma



License



Micro-Credential

Current estimates suggest that there are 650,000+ unique credentials in the U.S.



State Policy Highlight: Identifying and Incentivizing Completion of High Value Credentials

- Supporting states, systems and institutions to publish credentials to Credential Engine's cloud-based Registry in order to catalogue the region's postsecondary credentials, encourage collaboration between employers and institutions and build tools that benefit students, families, counselors and policymakers

Key Industries:



Healthcare



Life- and Bio-Sciences



Information Technology



Business and Financial Operations

States Participating:



Maine



Massachusetts



New Hampshire



Rhode Island

- Advancing innovating practices that will allow institutions to leverage linked data -- enabling individuals and employers to search for and compare credentials as they would hotels, flights or cars
- Reducing information asymmetry and increasing the social capital necessary for **all** New Englanders to make informed decisions about their education and career pathways regardless of their backgrounds



Q&A

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