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## **Appendix B:**

### **Massachusetts Independent College Transfer Guarantee Guiding Principles**

The Massachusetts Independent College Transfer Guarantee (Massachusetts Guarantee) is a student-centered approach to transfer, which provides eligible students with greater access, opportunity, and affordability at participating four-year independent institutions.

#### **The Massachusetts Guarantee is guided by the following principles:**

1. Students attend community colleges for a variety of purposes, including the goal of transferring to a four-year institution. Community college graduates bring to a receiving four-year institution enriched perspectives from their life experiences, persistence, diversity, and the academic preparation necessary to be able to graduate at a rate equal to or more likely higher than incoming high school graduates.
2. The demographic challenges facing New England, and especially Massachusetts, make community colleges essential to both public and independent four-year institutions.
3. The Massachusetts Guarantee is student-centered, taking into account life experiences, financial and support services needs, interests, aspirations, and/or cultural backgrounds.
4. The Massachusetts Guarantee builds upon the public four-year transfer pathways that have been established in Massachusetts and provides eligible students with the opportunity to transfer as juniors to a participating independent institution in their home state.
5. The Massachusetts Guarantee enables students to transfer without loss of credit counting towards graduation, provided that any minimum course GPA requirements of the receiving institution are met. Whether the credits are applied to a major, general education core or electives will be determined by the receiving institution. All institutional minimum grade requirements for transfer credit will be clearly stated and available to all prospective students.
6. Each independent college will designate a Guarantee Coordinator who will serve as the point of contact and coordinate the implementation of the Massachusetts Guarantee at the institutional level.



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7. All Massachusetts Guarantee transfer pathways will include:
    - a. Clear criteria for guaranteed admission, in most cases a minimum GPA; for programs that have additional admission requirements, these requirements will be clearly spelled out.
    - b. Clear information regarding total cost to complete the baccalaureate.
    - c. If incentives are offered, clear criteria for these incentives (such as GPA) and information about how any incentives will affect the total cost to degree.
  8. Based upon research findings, community college students are far more likely to be successful if they receive support in the form of intensive advising that includes, academic guidance and counseling, academic support, peer advising, personal guidance and counseling, career services and supplemental services.
  9. Pre-application and post-acceptance support services are critical to the successful transition of community college graduates into four-year institutions and these services shall be provided by participating institutions.
  10. Independent institutions will be encouraged to take into consideration the transfer slump many students experience and to develop academic good standing policies that wait until the end of the academic year to determine whether any transfer student (regardless of participation in the Massachusetts Guarantee) should be placed on academic probation.
  11. Community college transfer advisors provide students with the full range of public and independent four-year institution transfer options taking into consideration aspirations, goals, best fit, and affordability.
  12. Four-year Independent institution participation is voluntary and the conditions for participation are included in a Memorandum of Agreement.
  13. Independent institutions will provide annual transfer data to the New England Board of Higher Education. Data will include enrollment of students under the Massachusetts Guarantee, persistence and completion.