

HOUSE No. 2234

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to early college high schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	

HOUSE No. 2234

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2234) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and Rady Mom for legislation to establish an early college education program to increase postsecondary completion rates and participation in career pathways. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to early college high schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 39 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 39A. (a) The commissioner of the department of higher education and
4 commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education shall establish and
5 administer an early college education program to increase postsecondary completion rates and
6 participation in career pathways. The program shall consider applications for partnerships
7 among public secondary institutions and public and private institutions of higher education to be
8 designated as Massachusetts Early College Schools.

9 (b) Public secondary schools receiving such designation shall provide programs open to
10 all enrolled students, on a space available basis, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race,
11 color, national origin, creed, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical
12 disability, age, ancestry, special needs, proficiency in the English language or academic

13 achievement. A lottery shall be held if more students than available spots apply. There shall be
14 no application fee or tuition charge for students participating in the program.

15 (c) The program shall allow for a minimum accumulation of 12 transferable college
16 credits. Preference shall be given to programs offering at least one career pathway yielding an
17 associate's degree or relevant industry credential. Academic courses offered in pathways that
18 count for college credit may be taught by postsecondary faculty or by secondary teachers
19 credentialed to teach postsecondary courses and shall include the transfer of any advanced
20 placement courses taken by participating students who earn a qualifying score on the College
21 Board advanced placement examination.

22 (d) The commissioner of the department of higher education and the department of
23 elementary and secondary education shall establish the information required for an application
24 for early college designation; provided that a description of a high-quality early college program
25 shall include:

26 i. the primary entry point grade and at least one later entry point opportunity for
27 other students and a plan for introducing the early college program and for preparing students for
28 the transition into the program;

29 ii. one or more potential student academic pathways, which shall include the
30 sequence of courses and other curricular experiences, such as internships, necessary to fulfill
31 both secondary and post-secondary requirements;

32 iii. the process and guidance support by which students will be exposed to sufficient
33 information to select the pathway best suited for them and provide options to change pathways
34 during the course of study;

35 iv. the school’s ability to partner with institutions of higher education to provide
36 academic courses taught on postsecondary campuses, or where not logistically feasible, a plan to
37 include postsecondary experiences;

38 v. the plan to offer personalized academic advising and tutoring around the pathway
39 to postsecondary completion, which must include specific provisions to address the particular
40 needs of limited English proficient students and students with disabilities, and may include
41 strategies to provide non-academic supports such as guidance counseling and financial literacy;
42 and

43 vi. the approaches to supporting participating students’ exposure to a variety of
44 career opportunities, targeted workforce and career skills development, such as teamwork,
45 communication, and interview preparation, and career counseling, and experiential and
46 workplace learning, such as internships and mentorship.

47 (e) Each early college school shall enter into and maintain a memorandum of
48 understanding with at least one institution of public or private higher education, which shall
49 include, but not be limited to, how the program is sustainable on current funding plus anticipated
50 annual state supplements for designated early colleges and the designated duties for each
51 institution, in the areas of program coordination, student support, faculty support, career
52 partnership coordination and performance monitoring.

53 (f) An early college advisory committee shall be established to oversee the designation of
54 applicants and be responsible for setting overall performance requirements and targeted
55 enrollments for all participating programs. Such advisory committee shall consist of: the
56 secretary of the executive office of education or a designee; 2 members of the board of

57 elementary and secondary education, who shall be appointed by the chair of the board of
58 elementary and secondary education; and 2 members of the board of higher education, who shall
59 be appointed by the chair of the board of higher education. Individual programs may negotiate
60 further requirements with the departments.

61 (g) Designations shall be for an initial period of five years, subject to review after the first
62 three years, and renewable subject to performance. The department of elementary and secondary
63 education shall, subject to appropriation, provide additional funding to participating programs for
64 each participating student.

65 (h) Annually, by July 1, early college schools shall file a report with the commissioner of
66 the department of higher education, the commissioner of the department of elementary and
67 secondary education and the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on higher education
68 on performance measures, including but not limited to, the following categories: (1) high school
69 graduation rates of participating students; (2) percentage of participating students who complete
70 the program; (3) percentage of participating students who gain any post-secondary credits; (4)
71 percentage of participating students who gain at least 12 postsecondary credits; (5) percentage of
72 participating students in a 6-year cohort who attain an associate's degree; and (6) college and
73 career outcomes of students.

74 (i) Not later than December 31, 2017, the commissioners of the departments of
75 elementary and secondary education and the department of higher education shall promulgate
76 rules and regulations necessary to implement this program.