



MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN

Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI) Access to Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism

Line Item #7066-9600

Budget request \$2,000,000

- This line item supports partnerships between high schools and public institutes of higher education to provide students with intellectual disabilities and autism the opportunity to participate in college with supports and services they need to be successful. This **cost-effective initiative** increases school and work success when students exit special education at age 22.

FY08 budget provided	\$2,000,000
FY 19 budget provided	\$1,700,000
FY 20 Governor's budget	\$1,700,000

- With this program, students with severe disabilities ages 18-22 are able to continue to participate with their peers in public college settings, rather than face increasing isolation. All too frequently, public school options for students with severe disabilities, ages 18-22, are limited to segregated special education programs, isolated from the community and their peers.
- This line item supports partnerships between state colleges and local school districts to provide inclusive higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities and autism. The proven success has greatly increased demand for MAICEI, which is cost-effective for school districts.
- By eliminating barriers, these students can reap the benefits of higher education and gain the academic, independent living, social and employment skills necessary to succeed. National data indicate that over 60% of adults with ID who attended college were able to find paid employment, compared to an employment rate of 16% for those who did not.
- According to the Department of Higher Education, 14 state colleges and universities are currently partnering with over 100 school districts, collaboratives, charter schools and 766 private schools. Over 160 young adults with ID and autism were included, with participation of the following colleges: UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Bridgewater State University, Framingham State University, Westfield State University, Salem State University and Bristol, Bunker Hill, Holyoke, MassBay, Middlesex, Northern Essex, Massasoit and Cape Cod community colleges. It is important to provide inclusion opportunities in additional public institutions of higher education for students with disabilities throughout the state.
- MAICEI increases school and work success for students with severe disabilities, the majority who have not passed MCAS—a vulnerable group of students who too often are left behind as others graduate.

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