

Massachusetts State Financial Aid

**Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance**

Access & Affordability

Affordability through
new financial aid
offerings

Free community
college for all
(MassReconnect &
MassEducate)

Free public four-year
college for low income
(MassGrant Plus)

Access by removing
barriers

Tuition Equity

Outreach to
students outside of
18-22 age group

High school students
through Early College

Adult learners
through
MassReconnect

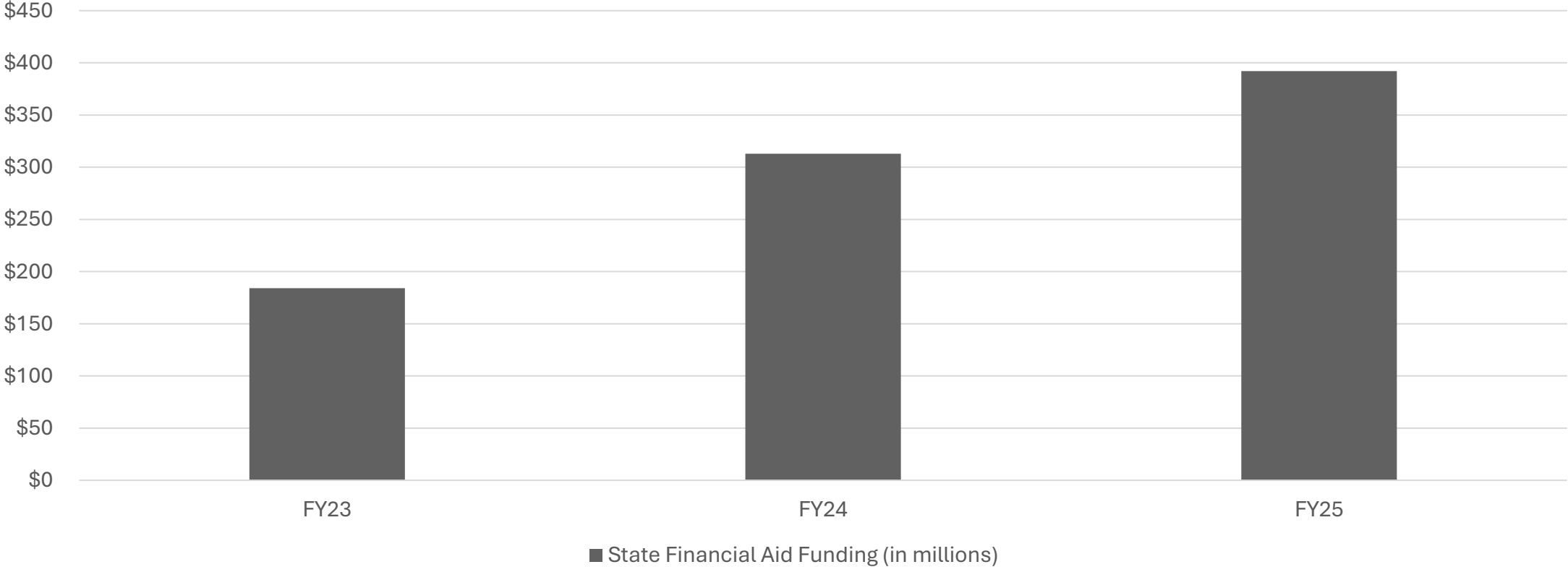
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Removing Barriers

- **Tuition Equity Law notably carves a pathway to in-state tuition rates and state financial aid for certain non-US citizen students, including undocumented students**, who have attended high school in Massachusetts for at least three (3) years and earned a high school diploma (or the equivalent) in the Commonwealth
- **Creation of Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) application** allows students to apply for need-based state financial aid
- MASFA launched in January 2024 for the 2023-24 academic year; and March 2024 for the 2024-25 academic year.
 - **Over 500 students completed the 2023-24 MASFA**
 - **15k76 applicants have been received for 2024-25**
 - **Expect the 2025-26 MASFA to be available in mid-December or when the FAFSA is released for all students**

\$200 Million Added to Financial Aid

State Financial Aid Funding (in millions)



Free Community College

- Fully implemented during the 2024-25 academic year
- Funded through two major programs
 - **MassReconnect**
 - Supports students age25+
 - Income not a factor
 - **MassEducate**
 - Supports students of all ages
 - Income not a factor

Free Community College - MassEducate

MassEducate is the Commonwealth's "free community college" grant program designed to provide financial assistance to full and part-time undergraduate students who are enrolled in and pursuing an approved program of study.

MassEducate provides "last dollar" financial assistance to ensure that eligible community college students have adequate resources to fully cover the direct costs of tuition and fees towards a certificate or associate degree at a public community college.

Free Community College - MassReconnect

MassReconnect is a grant program designed to provide financial assistance to full and part-time undergraduate students age 25+ who are pursuing an approved program of study.

MassReconnect provides “last dollar” financial assistance to ensure that eligible community college students have adequate resources to fully cover the direct costs of tuition and fees towards a certificate or associate degree at a public community college.



MassEducate:
Free Community College for Students of All Ages

Free Community College

- Last dollar grant program
- Provides Free tuition & fees
- Full and Part-Time students (6 credit minimum)
- Provides a book/supply allowance up to \$1200
 - An allowance up to \$1200 for Books and supplies
 - Additional \$1200 allowance for other educational expenses for some students who meet certain income threshold



Free and Affordable College

Free and affordable college tuition and fees are here across public Massachusetts community colleges and four-year universities!

Community College Opportunities

Looking to go to public community college? Massachusetts has one of the nation's most comprehensive free community college programs, with universal aid for tuition and fees, as well as financial resources for books, supplies, and other expenses.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MASSEDUCATE](#)

Public Four-Year College Opportunities

Looking to go to a four-year public university? If your family makes up to \$85,000 a year before taxes, you can likely go tuition and fee free. Additionally, many students from middle-income families can get tuition and fees reduced by up to 50%.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MASSGRANT PLUS](#)

Other Financial Aid and Financial Aid Applications

[Mass.gov/StudentAid](https://www.mass.gov/StudentAid)

Expanding MASSGrant Plus

- Free tuition and fees at all public institutions of higher education for low-income students (Pell-eligibility standards)
 - \$1,200 allowance for books and supplies
- Available at all nine state universities and all UMass campuses



Affordable College - MASSGrant Plus

- Last dollar grant for tuition and fees
- Award is determined after all other non-loan is considered
- Supports full and part-time Pell eligible students at public 4-year colleges and universities
- Student encouraged to complete the FAFSA or MASFA by the institution's published financial aid deadline (or other date imposed by the Legislature) to ensure that they receive assistance
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Affordable College - MASSGrant Plus Expansion

- Last dollar grant for tuition and fees
- Award is determined after all other non-loan is considered
- Provides aid for half (50%) of tuition and fees
- Supports only full-time non-Pell students at public 4-year colleges and universities who meet income threshold (SAI = 15,000)
- Student encouraged to complete FAFSA or MASFA by the institution's published financial aid deadline (or other date imposed by the Legislature) to ensure that they receive assistance
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State Financial Aid Programs

Massachusetts continues to support students with their educational costs through several other state financial aid programs. Eligibility is based on financial need and type of institution attended. These include:

- MASSGrant – full-time students
- Cash Grant – full or part-time students
- In-Demand Scholarship
- Tuition Waivers (Adams Scholarship, Koplik Certificate, Need-Based)
- High Demand Scholarship
- Early Childhood Educators Scholarship
- Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant
- Gilbert Matching Grant

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Questions