



Massachusetts Advocates for Children

ACT NOW

Support Legislation and Funding to Provide College Access for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

- 1) **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Ask your legislators to Support \$2 million for the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI) for Student with Disabilities line item 7066-9600 (formerly 7009-9600)
 - This line item supports partnerships between high schools and public institutions of higher education to offer individuals with ID and autism, ages 18-22, the opportunity to participate in inclusive college courses with necessary services and supports.
 - The funding will expand inclusive higher education opportunities throughout the Commonwealth's 29 public institutions of higher education, providing inclusive opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities and autism throughout the state per the legislative Task Force Report recommendations.
 - ICEI increases school and work success for individuals with ID, the majority who have not passed MCAS—a vulnerable group of students who too often are left behind as others graduate. National research data indicate that forty percent of adults with ID who attended college were able to find paid employment, compared to an employment rate of sixteen percent for those who did not.

Ask your legislators to support funding of \$2 million to open the doors to higher education for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Ask if they will show their support by co-sponsoring any amendments to the budget if needed.

- 2) **Ask your legislators to Support bills S. 698** Sen. L'Italien and **H. 634** Reps. Haddad and Garballey
 - These two bills remove barriers that currently preclude many persons with intellectual disabilities from participating in higher education. Individuals with ID who are unable to pass MCAS and who do not obtain a regular high school diploma would be able to enroll in courses with their nondisabled peers and would be able to participate in extracurricular activities and other aspects of campus life, with supports and services to facilitate inclusion.
 - These bills would also require that the goals, mission statements and performance measures of our state colleges and universities provide for the inclusion of students with ID and autism.
 - These bills would also codify the MAICEI grant program and allow the special education process to consider higher education as an option for students with disabilities who are 18 to 22 years old.

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