



December 7, 2025

Dr. David Podell  
President  
Massachusetts Bay Community College  
50 Oakland Street  
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

Dear President Podell:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on November 21, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education took the following action with respect to Massachusetts Bay Community College:

that Massachusetts Bay Community College be continued in accreditation;

that the institution submit an interim (fifth-year) report by January 15, 2030 for consideration in Spring 2030;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, the Spring 2030 interim report give emphasis to the institution's success in:

1. continuing to institutionalize its assessment practices, with particular attention to implementing its program review process college-wide and ensuring student success across different teaching modalities;

that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for Spring 2035.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions.

Massachusetts Bay Community College is continued in accreditation because the Commission finds the institution to be in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation*.

The Commission commends Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) for its:

- comprehensive self-study developed through a collaborative and inclusive process. In addition, intentionally developing the College's 2024-2028 strategic plan as part of the self-study process ensures the alignment of institutional values with operational priorities.
- enrollment increase of 32% since 2021, in part due to the MassEducate and MassReconnect programs, that reflects the College's deep commitment to students and the consistent belief that student success is "everyone's job."
- successful launch of its Center for Health Sciences, Early Childhood, and Human Services instructional location in Framingham, Massachusetts.
- efforts to engage adjunct faculty in the assessment process through "expanded access, ... inclusive structures, and ... formal opportunities for engagement."

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. The purpose of the Spring 2030 interim report is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution's current status in keeping with the Policy on the Periodic Review of Accredited Institutions. In the Spring 2030 interim report, Massachusetts Bay Community College is asked to provide an update on the following area identified for development:

1. **Continuing to institutionalize its assessment practices, with particular attention to implementing its program review process college-wide and ensuring student success across different teaching modalities (2.6, 4.6, 8.6).** As a data-driven institution, MassBay systematically uses its Institutional Dashboards and reports to “support assessment of institutional effectiveness.” The College’s annual assessment retreat, “Evidence in Action Day,” new faculty assessment coordinator positions, and initiative to “track improvements in student success by comparing C- or higher completion rates across modalities” are all noteworthy advancements. Yet, as recognized by the institution, there is still a “need to improve” in its program-level assessment and review, to include ensuring the participation of all departments in the process.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2035 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

You will note that the Commission has specified no length or term of accreditation. Accreditation is a continuing relationship that is reconsidered when necessary. Thus, while the Commission has indicated the timing of the next comprehensive evaluation, the schedule should not be unduly emphasized because it is subject to change.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the self-study prepared by Massachusetts Bay Community College and for the report submitted by the visiting team. The Commission also welcomed the opportunity to meet with you and Courtney Jackson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, during its deliberations.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board and the head of the system of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Ilissa Povich and Noe Ortega. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

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If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall,  
President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Whelan".

Michael Whelan  
Commission Chair

MW/mrc

cc: Ilissa Povich  
Noe Ortega

Attachment: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions