UMASS LOWELL

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

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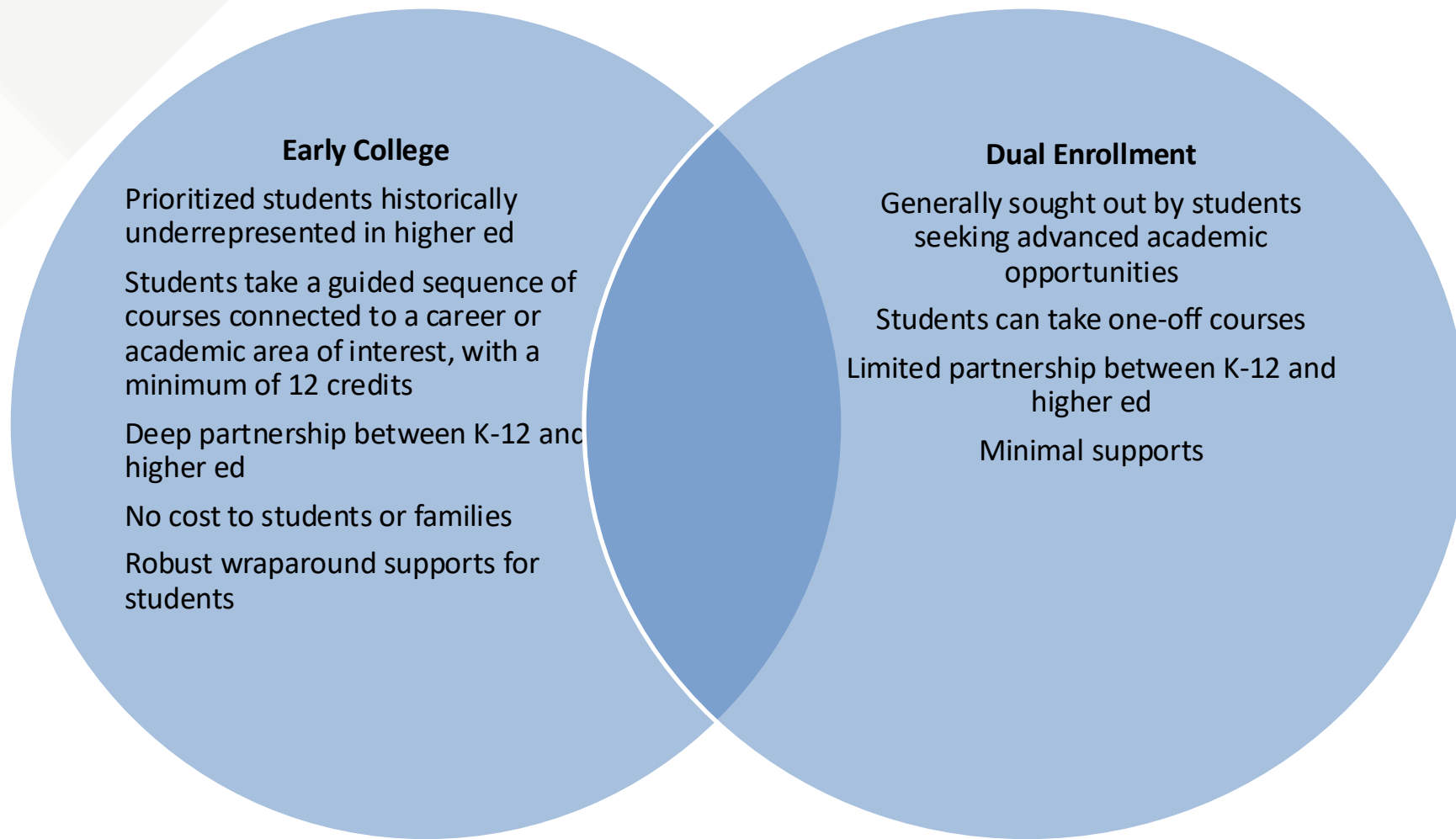DIRECTOR, EARLY COLLEGE INITIATIVES
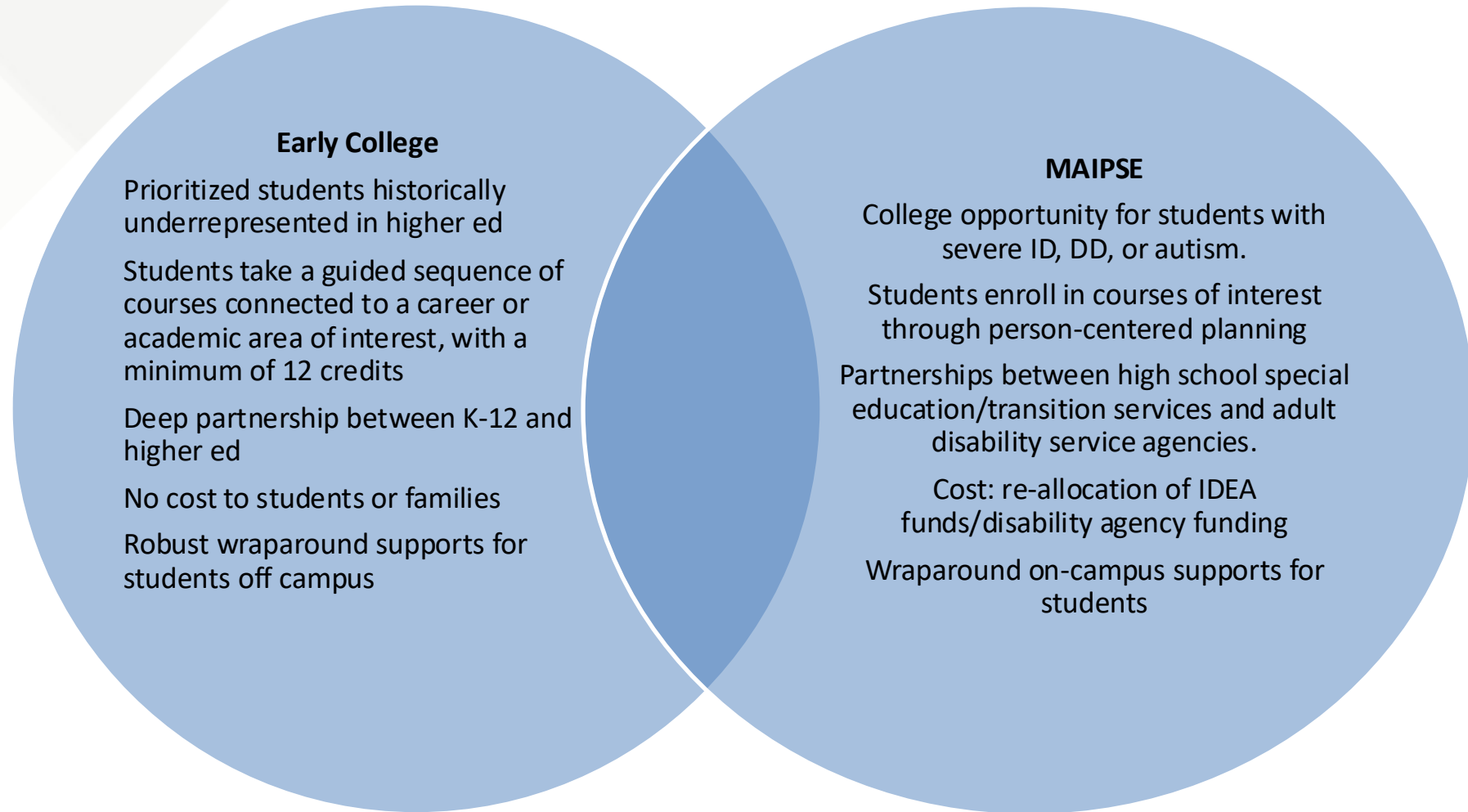
WHAT IS EARLY COLLEGE?

Early College programs are intentionally designed to empower students traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

- Students take college courses as part of the regular, high school day at no cost to them or their families.
- Programs are structured for students to earn at least 12 credits in a career-focused pathway.
- Students receive robust wraparound support services to ensure their success.
- K-12/Higher Ed partnerships go through an extensive year-long application process to become Designated Massachusetts Early College programs.
- Benefits include career exposure, increased academic preparedness, savings of time and money on a college degree, better alignment between higher ed and K-12 and more.

EARLY COLLEGE VS. DUAL ENROLLMENT

Early College

Prioritized students historically underrepresented in higher ed

Students take a guided sequence of courses connected to a career or academic area of interest, with a minimum of 12 credits

Deep partnership between K-12 and higher ed

No cost to students or families

Robust wraparound supports for students

Dual Enrollment

Generally sought out by students seeking advanced academic opportunities

Students can take one-off courses

Limited partnership between K-12 and higher ed

Minimal supports

EARLY COLLEGE VS. MA INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY ED

Early College

Prioritized students historically underrepresented in higher ed

Students take a guided sequence of courses connected to a career or academic area of interest, with a minimum of 12 credits

Deep partnership between K-12 and higher ed

No cost to students or families

Robust wraparound supports for students off campus

MAIPSE

College opportunity for students with severe ID, DD, or autism.

Students enroll in courses of interest through person-centered planning

Partnerships between high school special education/transition services and adult disability service agencies.

Cost: re-allocation of IDEA funds/disability agency funding

Wraparound on-campus supports for students

MASSACHUSETTS EARLY COLLEGE LANDSCAPE

- There are 55 Designated Programs across 62 high schools and 28 institutions of higher education.
  - 12 out of 15 community colleges
  - 7 out of 9 state universities
  - 70% of Gateway cities

- For the 2024-2025 SY, there were 8824 students enrolled in an Early College program, representing over 3% of the state's high school population.

- DESE and the Office of Early College are developing a strategic plan with a bold vision for Early College enrollment statewide within the next 5 years.

EARLY COLLEGE GOALS

- Enrollment & Scale
  - increase early college enrollment to 22,00 high school students by 2030.
- Program Quality
  - promote programs that achieve outcomes that include students graduating with a minimum of 12 college credits(transferable to in-state IHE)
- College Matriculation & Persistence
  - at least 65% of all students in the program matriculate immediately to college, and at least 75% of students persist to a second year.

UMass Early College

Amherst, Dartmouth, and Lowell are part of the Commonwealth Collegiate Academy, an Early College program that offers courses in a flexible, hybrid format with a mix of online and in-person coursework. Cohort courses are the primary vehicle for students to take classes.

*UMass Boston has Designated programs with Boston Public Schools

UMass Lowell Partner High Schools:

Billerica, Dracut, Greater Lowell Tech,

Methuen, Revere, Woburn

UMASS Commonwealth Collegiate Academy

University of Massachusetts UMASS

FACULTY-TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

- University faculty deliver all components of instruction
  - Curriculum development
  - Planning/Coordination of course content
  - Student support

- High school teachers provide complementary support
  - Discussion sessions
  - Project teamwork
  - Tutoring and face-to-face experiences to enhance remote learning

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- Regular Communication:
  - High school teachers and university faculty discuss student progress
  - Early warning system identifies students needing additional support

- Classroom Management:
  - High school teachers assist with individual special needs
  - Create a supportive classroom environment to foster engagement

- Engagement Strategies:
  - Collaboration is key to fostering student engagement in online learning
  - Professors and teachers employ innovative methods to connect with students
  - Building relationships is essential to address challenges of remote learning

TEAM INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL

- **Goal:** Reach the greatest number of students

- Emphasizes collaboration between high school teachers and university professors

- Provides comprehensive support in a virtual environment

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance
- Ask for help
- Submit assignments on time and come prepared to class
- Set up UMass email and check it daily while your class is in session
- Set up access to student information system
- Submit required forms as requested

EARLY COLLEGE/HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BILLERICA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 7:25 - 8:55am	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule
2 9:00 - 10:25 am	**UML Class 1 - College Writing**	**UML Class 2 - Enviromental Science**	**UML Class 1 - College Writing**	**UML Class 2 - Environmental Science**	**Extra Class meeting with BMHS teacher (alternates weeks for Class 1 and Class 2) OR CCA College Readiness Support Activities**
3 10:30am -12:25 pm	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule
4 12:30 - 2:02 pm	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule	BMHS Class Schedule

CAMPUS VISITS AND COLLEGE ACCULTURATION ACTIVITIES

- To balance the remote and in person instruction at high schools, EC students participate in full day campus visits several times throughout the year.

  – High school specific campus tours

  – Open House/Welcome Days

  – Junior Preview Days

  – Summer Residency

  – Sports/Athletic Events

  – Campus Recreation Center/Library access