

# MassBay Community College

## Transitional Scholars Program (TSP)

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Program



# Program Overview

- Inclusive college experience for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
- Based at MassBay Community College on the Wellesley Hills campus
- Self-sustaining, collaborative model (not grant funded)
- Focus on academics, social inclusion, and life skills

# Program Goals & Values

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Promote equity  
and access

Support self-  
determination and  
independence

Foster campus and  
community  
inclusion

Build academic,  
vocational, and  
social-emotional  
skills

# TSP Development & Growth

## 2007-TSP BEGAN

- Grant funded
- Had not earned a HS diploma
- Audited all courses
- Ed Coaches supported students

## 2012 -TSP BECAME SELF SUSTAINING

- College funded Program Coordinator and Ed Coaches' salaries
- Strengthened connections with local high schools
- Increased number of students and partnerships

## CREATED FLEXIBILITY

- Have or have not earned a HS diploma
- Students who are 22+
- Courses audited or taken for college credit
- Utilization of campus resources (career services, counseling, student clubs etc.)

## STUDENTS DETERMINE THEIR PATH

- One or two courses per semester
- Audit v credit
- Follow curriculum paths for a degree
- Can continue after TSP to earn their Associates Degree

# TSP Support Structure

Collaboration with faculty and Accessibility Resources Center (ARC)

Faculty informed that TSP student and Ed Coach is enrolled in their course (info sheet)

Students register with ARC for accommodations for the semester

Closely coordinate with ARC and the Academic Achievement Center (AAC)

Most students meet with peer tutors and learning specialists in the AAC regularly

Coordinator's role:

Program admission

Academic advisor

Supervises Ed Coaches

Weekly meetings with students (semester goals/PCP, student progress, problem solve)

School district liaison

Promote student engagement

# Campus-Wide vs. Program-Specific Support

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## Campus-wide:

Accessibility accommodations, student activities, advising

## Program-specific:

Ed Coach support, course materials provided, weekly meetings with coordinator

Help families understand and navigate both layers of support

# Educational Coaches

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Hired (\$30/hr), on-going training, and supervised by program staff

Help provide academic and social support on campus

Attend class with student

Meet regularly with student (up to 10 hrs/wk)

## Partnerships with Schools & Agencies



Collaborate with local high schools, MAIPSE and DDS



Facilitate contracts and align goals with sending districts



Share progress and updates with all stakeholders



# Program Cost Breakdown

One Course Enrollment Cost	
Educational Coach	\$3,700.00
Tuition & Fees	\$900.00
Program Fee	\$800.00
Total Cost	\$5,400.00

Two Course Enrollment Cost	
Educational Coach	\$5,400.00
Tuition & Fees	\$1,700.00
Program Fee	\$800.00
Total Cost	\$7,900.00

# Funding Options



**DDS (SELF DIRECTION  
SERVICE)**



**SCHOOL DISTRICTS/IEP  
LANGUAGE (1 DISTRICT  
SENDS ED COACH)**



**PRIVATE PAY (PAYMENT  
PLANS)**

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# Success Stories & Impact

Student transitions to credit courses or employment

Student continues at MassBay and earns Associate's Degree

Increased self-confidence and independence

ARC creates NSA (Neurodivergent Student Alliance)

Positive feedback from families and faculty

New space for the program and coordinator's office

Former TSP student helps establish one of the few higher-ed unified sports program in Massachusetts

# What's Next for TSP?

- **Implementing social/emotional ed coach for Fall 2025**
- **Expanding?**
- **Degree seeking?**
- **Free Community College?**

# Thank you!



**Thank you for  
learning about  
the Transitional  
Scholars  
Program!**

**We welcome  
collaboration,  
questions, and  
feedback**

**Contact:**

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