

# BRISTOL

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## COMMUNITY COLLEGE

August 1, 2023

Dear Faculty & Staff,

I am very excited to announce that, with the passing of the 2023/2024 state budget and subject to state appropriation, MassReconnect will officially launch for the Fall 2023 semester.

MassReconnect **will cover the cost of community college for Massachusetts residents, ages 25 or older, without a previous college degree**, and bring college within reach for so many adult learners in our region. The program is available to new and current students enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program.

For further details about eligibility requirements, visit [BristolCC.edu/MassReconnect](https://BristolCC.edu/MassReconnect).

Bristol's enrollment staff has been working diligently to prepare for the implementation of MassReconnect. Our Admissions, Financial Aid, Testing, Advising and Enrollment Center teams are ready to assist students through the enrollment process quickly, so they can utilize MassReconnect as soon as possible.

We have established a MassReconnect triage team – a dedicated team from Student Services and Enrollment Management who are being trained on the various components of MassReconnect – to assist eligible students in maximizing this benefit.

As this is an individualized award process, it's best that the triage team answer questions about a student's specific eligibility. **However, here are the three main requirements that you should know when talking with students, ages 25 and up, about MassReconnect.**

- **Students must be admitted to a degree program or Title IV eligible certificate.**
  - [Visit the catalog](#) for a list of financial aid eligible certificates. Students can complete a change of program form if they wish to change to a financial aid eligible certificate. Please note that current non-degree or guest students must apply to the college in order to be eligible.
- **Students must have a current FAFSA on file with the college.**
  - As a last-dollar-in program, MassReconnect requires that students complete their FAFSA. Regardless of whether they have received aid in the past, the introduction of MassReconnect means that many more adult students may be able to graduate debt-free. Please encourage all students to complete their FAFSA. As always, our [Financial Aid staff](#) is ready to assist students and their families, via walk-in or by appointment.

- **Students must be registered for 6 or more credits.**
  - Please encourage students to speak with their advisor or the Advising Center to register for classes. Students can visit [BristolCC.edu/Advising](https://BristolCC.edu/Advising) to view walk-in hours or make an appointment.

If students need help navigating the requirements or have questions about their status, please ask them to email the triage team at [MassReconnect@BristolCC.edu](mailto:MassReconnect@BristolCC.edu).

**An important note about tuition payments:** We have not yet received guidance from the state on how aid will be awarded to each eligible student. We will follow up with more details regarding Fall 2023 tuition and fee payments prior to the bill due date of Monday, August 10. For students who have already registered, their bill will be adjusted once the college has received more guidance.

We will continue to communicate with future and current students to spread the news about MassReconnect, encouraging everyone who is eligible to take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

The idea of going back to college or starting college [can seem overwhelming](#), especially for adult learners. And, while Bristol has so much to offer this population – with specialized resources to help them learn, grow and succeed – students still often face financial struggles. MassReconnect will relieve the financial burden of college expenses, allowing our students to make college possible.

**I encourage all of you to continue to spread the word about this life-changing opportunity.** Let's find new ways to inspire and support more adult learners in pursuing their college degrees. The long-term impact on their careers and lives will be truly transformative.

Best always,

*Laura*

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*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others."*  
- African Proverb