



August 9, 2023

Dear Bristol Students,

Today signifies a momentous day within the Commonwealth's history. A day that will have an impact on generations to come. Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey has signed the fiscal year 2024 state budget which includes funding for [MassReconnect](#), an unprecedented new program that will cover the cost of community college for Massachusetts residents, ages 25 or older, without a previous college degree.

The Healey-Driscoll administration acknowledges the crucial role that higher education access plays in the lives of our residents. MassReconnect will bolster the college-going culture within our region and empower adult learners to attain a degree without the barrier of cost. With this milestone, we will be able to utilize more student resources and hopefully pave the way for free community college for all someday. Please take the time to thank our local legislators for their contributions to this tremendous effort and help us spread the word about this wonderful opportunity.

Best wishes,

*President Laura L. Douglas*