

Fair Share

SECTION 2F. The sums set forth in this section are hereby appropriated from the Education and Transportation Fund, for the purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this section and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. All appropriations in this section shall not be subject to section 5D of chapter 29 of the General Laws.

Fiscal Year 2025 Resource Summary (\$000)

Government Area	FY2025 Budgetary Recommendation
Transportation	300,000
Education	750,000
Total	1,050,000

Transportation

Department of Transportation		300,000,000
1596-2405	MBTA LOW-INCOME FARE RELIEF For a reserve to implement a low-income reduced fare program at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for riders of all modes with low-incomes; provided, that funds from this item may be expended on uses including, but not limited to: (i) replacement of foregone fare revenues; (ii) operating and administrative costs relating to the program; (iii) data and technology improvements, systems integration and support; and (iv) community engagement; provided further, that prior to expending funds from this item, the authority shall submit a proposed plan for implementing said program to the secretary of transportation for the approval of the secretary; and provided further, that not later than June 30, 2025, the authority shall submit a report detailing the expenditures from this item including rider enrollment in the program as of March 31, 2025, to the secretary of transportation, the joint committee on transportation, and the house and senate committees on ways and means <div style="margin-left: 40px;">Education and Transportation Fund 100%</div>	45,000,000
1596-2406	REGIONAL TRANSIT FUNDING AND GRANTS For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund established in section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws to fund transit improvements at regional transit authorities and supportive transit improvements across the commonwealth; provided, that not less than \$56,000,000 shall be expended by regional transit authorities to support operational enhancements and improvements, including expanded service hours, weekend services, and route expansions, in addition to services supported through item 1595-6370; provided further, that funds provided under this item in fiscal year 2024 to provide more equitable distribution of contract assistance to regional transit authorities under section 23 of chapter 161B of the General Laws shall be	75,000,000

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incorporated into each recipient's baseline funding calculation for fiscal year 2025; provided further, that funds not allocated under the preceding proviso shall be expended for operating assistance to regional transit authorities based on the following formula: (i) 60 per cent based on total transit ridership as reported on the most recent certified national transit data base report; (ii) 30 per cent based on population of its member communities from the most recent census; and (iii) 10 per cent based on service coverage area determined by the total square miles of its member communities; provided further, that not less than \$15,000,000 shall be expended on grants for fare equity programs to be administered by the regional transit authorities; provided further, that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall oversee the distribution of said grants and shall establish grant criteria including, but not limited to, the prioritization of: (a) opportunities for increased ridership; and (b) increased service accessibility to low-income individuals; provided further, that said grants shall be distributed in a geographically equitable manner; and provided further, that not later than April 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report to the joint committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on ways and means including, but not limited to: (1) grant criteria used by the department; (2) a list of grant applicants; (3) a list of successful grant applicants; (4) summaries of successful grant proposals; (5) ridership and fare data for such pilot programs; and (6) details on the mechanisms being utilized to track ridership and fare data for said pilot programs; and provided further, that not less than \$4,000,000 shall be expended for grants to transit providers to support expanded mobility options for older adults, people with disabilities and low-income individuals through the Community Transit Grant Program
 Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2409	<p>SAFETY, SERVICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund established in section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws for programs to enhance and improve service, safety and sustainability of the commonwealth's transportation system and infrastructure; provided, that funds from this item may be expended on uses including, but not limited to: (i) strategic implementation of technology systems to support roadway safety and congestion management, such as adaptive traffic signals, highway ramp wrong way deterrence, connected vehicle corridor control and traffic data collection systems; (ii) expansion of water transportation, including capital improvements to docks and acquisition of additional vessels; (iii) support to municipalities for technical assistance and design, with a focus on serving environmental justice, rural and Gateway Communities; (iv) climate resiliency and adaptation projects, including efforts to identify high risk climate hazards and associated high risk transportation assets across Massachusetts, as well as recommendations for integrating best practices into planning, asset management, operations and maintenance activities; (v) grants to support recreational trail and shared-use pathway projects across the commonwealth, including</p>	56,000,000
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grants to support project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails, shared-use pathways, and the amenities that support trails; and (vi) increased efforts to maximize access to federal funds for transportation projects

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2428 ROADS & BRIDGES SUPPLEMENTAL AID 124,000,000

For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund established in section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws for the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways as described in clause (b) of the second paragraph of section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws; provided, that a city or town shall comply with the procedures established by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; provided further, that a city or town may expend, without further appropriation, for these projects amounts not in excess of the amount provided to the city or town under this item upon preliminary notice of such amount, which shall be provided by the department to the city or town, not later than June 30, 2025; provided further, that this funding shall be distributed using a formula based on each municipality's population, locally owned road miles and employment; and provided further, that not less than \$24,000,000 shall be distributed to rural communities using a formula to be developed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

Education

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 175,000,000

1596-2422 SCHOOL MEALS 170,000,000

For the reimbursement of school districts and participating schools for the costs of providing universal free school meals pursuant to section 1C of chapter 69 of the General Laws; provided, that districts receiving funds under this item shall not implement a meal charge for students; provided further, that participating districts that are eligible for reimbursement under the community eligibility provision of the National School Lunch Program or an applicable provision of the National Child Nutrition Act, Public Law 111-296, shall adopt said provision to maximize access to federal funds; and provided further, that not later than January 15, 2025, the department of elementary and secondary education shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education and the executive office for administration and finance that shall include: (i) data on any change in utilization of school lunch services in districts receiving funding under this item, delineated by free, reduced and paid students as defined by the National School Lunch Program; (ii) the distribution of funding paid through this item delineated by school district; and (iii) options to reform, modify or extend the program in a manner that promotes equity, maximizes federal funds and

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improves predictability and sustainability of funding
 Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2436 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AND WRAPAROUNDS 5,000,000

For the development of a statewide birth through higher education framework for mental and behavioral health which may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) guiding principles and strategies related to providing social emotional supports; (ii) mental and behavioral health supports; (iii) suicide prevention; and (iv) relevant professional development in educational settings; provided, that the framework shall be developed in collaboration with the executive office of health and human services and the department of mental health, experts in childhood mental health, educators including those from early education and care programs, elementary and secondary public schools, and public institutions of higher education, students, families, and other stakeholders as appropriate; and provided further, that funds may be expended to implement the framework and relevant mental and behavioral health supports for students

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

Office of the Secretary of Education 35,000,000

1596-2413 EARLY COLLEGE AND INNOVATION PATHWAYS 5,000,000

For the development and expansion of early college, workforce, technical and innovation pathway programs; provided, that such programs shall incorporate the guiding principles of designated pathways; and provided further, that appropriated funds may be expended for programs or activities during the summer months

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2437 EARLY LITERACY 30,000,000

For an early literacy initiative directed by the secretary of education, in consultation and coordination with the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and the commissioner of early education and care, to be known as Literacy Launch: Reading Success from Age 3 through Grade 3; provided, that said program shall provide grants, programming and materials to increase the number of public schools and licensed early education and care providers in the commonwealth providing evidence-based literacy instruction to students in pre-kindergarten through grade 3; provided further, that grants may support activities including, but not limited to: (i) the adoption and implementation of high quality curricular materials by public schools and districts and early education program providers; (ii) the provision of technical support, coaching, and professional development to maximize educator impact and improve student learning of literacy skills for students in pre-kindergarten through grade 3, including the support of required staff for the development and implementation of the program by the granting agencies; (iii) an acceleration of the program review of educator preparation programs approved by the department of elementary and

secondary education; (iv) the coordination and alignment of assessment and screening, curriculum, and professional development across the departments of early education and care and elementary and secondary education; and (v) other professional learning initiatives and supports related to literacy assessment, measurement, and instruction for specific groups of learners or specific evidence-based materials; provided further, that grant recipients may include, but not be limited to: (i) public schools and districts and licensed early education and care programs providing pre-kindergarten instructional services; (ii) the University of Massachusetts; (iii) state universities and community colleges; and (iv) other educator preparation programs; provided further, that not later than November 30, 2025, the secretary of education shall provide a summary of the current and planned allocations of funds for each program funded through this item to the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means and that such report shall include: (i) a list of grant recipients; (ii) grants awarded delineated by recipient; (iii) any matching funds or services contributed by grant recipients or program participants; (iv) the purposes of the grants; and (v) a detailed breakdown of the purposes and amounts of administrative costs charged to this item; and provided further, that any unexpended funds in this item shall not revert but shall be made available until August 30, 2026

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

Department of Early Education and Care	311,000,000
1596-2410 CHILD CARE GRANTS TO PROVIDERS	150,000,000

For grants to support available capacity, support workforce, and address operational costs within the early education and care sector; provided, that grants shall be available to child care programs licensed or otherwise funded by the department of early education and care; provided further, that the distribution of grants shall prioritize equity and early education programs with higher percentages of state subsidized enrollment; provided further, that such grants shall be provided to child care providers whose enrollment includes at least fifty percent of children with a state subsidy; provided further, that funds from this line item shall be expended in coordination with funds from item 3000-1045; provided further, that the department shall collect data from participating programs, including but not limited to: (i) the number of enrolled children; (ii) number of educators employed; and (iii) a breakdown of the funding from the operational grants spent to recruit and retain employees; and provided further, that the department shall report such data to the joint committee on education, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the secretary of administration and finance on a quarterly basis

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2412 CPPI PRE-K INITIATIVE	21,000,000
For planning and implementation activities in cities, towns, regional	

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school districts or educational collaboratives to expand pre-kindergarten or preschool opportunities on a voluntary basis to children who will be eligible for kindergarten within two school years, utilizing the Massachusetts Preschool Expansion Grant public-private partnership model; provided, that preference shall be given to districts in Gateway Cities or serving high percentages of high-needs students; provided further, that additional preference shall be given to districts that have completed strategic planning efforts that support expanding access to high-quality preschool; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, funds distributed from this item shall be deposited with the treasurer of the city, town, regional school district or educational collaborative and held in a separate account and shall be expended by the school committee of such city, town, regional school district or educational collaborative without further appropriation; provided further, that funds may be expended for Summer Step Up to support children entering kindergarten and early elementary school with academic and enrichment activities during the summer; provided further, that funds from this line item shall be expended in coordination with funds from item 3000-6025; and provided further, that appropriated funds may be expended for programs or activities during the summer months

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2434 RATE INCREASE FOR EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE 65,000,000

For a child care provider rate reserve to sustain reimbursement rate increases from prior fiscal years and to further increase such rates for subsidized early education and care providers; provided, that rate increases funded from this reserve shall support salaries, benefits and stipends for professional development of early educators, as well as increase access to care for families; provided further, that funds appropriated in this item may be used to increase the reimbursement rate for all such providers using a methodology established by the department; provided further, that funds may be expended for increasing the daily add-on rate for comprehensive early education services for children with active cases at the department of children and families; provided further, that the commissioner of early education and care may transfer funds between this item and items 3000-3060 and 3000-4060, as necessary, for this purpose, under an allocation plan that shall detail, by object class, the distribution of the funds to be transferred and which shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means not less than 30 days before any such transfer; provided further, that \$45,000,000 shall be used to annualize rate increases implemented in fiscal year 2024; and provided further, that \$20,000,000 shall be used to fund additional rate increases for center-based and family child care providers in fiscal year 2025

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2435 CHILDCARE AFFORDABILITY 75,000,000

For efforts to make child care more affordable for families and to

reduce the waitlist for income-eligible early education and care programs; provided, that subject to appropriation, the department of early education and care may use funds to expand eligibility to child care financial assistance to additional families with incomes up to 85 percent of state median income; provided further, that educators working in early education, out of school time and residential facilities licensed by the department may be eligible for prioritization pursuant to department policies; provided further, that funds may also be expended for informal early education and care benefits for families meeting income-eligibility criteria established by the department; and provided further, that not later than April 1, 2025, the department of early education and care shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance, the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the number of children placed in care through this item

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

Department of Higher Education	229,000,000
1596-2414 FINANCIAL AID EXPANSION	80,000,000

For a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts students enrolled in and pursuing a program of higher education in any public institutions of higher education; provided, that funds from this item may be expended on the administration of the scholarship program; provided further, that the commissioner of higher education shall adopt guidelines governing the eligibility and the awarding of financial assistance; and provided further, that funds may be expended for an office of higher education success and completion within the department of higher education to support: (i) data collection and tracking; and (ii) the development of best practices for higher education student success and degree completion including, but not limited to, the alignment of community college programming with labor market demands

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2417 HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FUNDING	125,000,000
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For a reserve for the study, design, construction, reconstruction, retrofit, site preparation, demolition, system repair and replacement, climate resiliency and adaptation, and other capital investment, planning, and improvements of campus facilities, including instructional and student facilities, laboratory facilities, infrastructure modernization, decarbonization, accessibility improvements, critical repair or other capital asset needs, administered by the executive office for administration and finance in consultation with the executive office of education and the division of capital asset management and maintenance; provided, that funds from this item may be transferred to the University of Massachusetts Building Authority and the Massachusetts State College Building Authority under a memorandum of understanding or agreement relating to capital planning or capital projects approved by the secretary of administration and finance; provided

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further, that funds from this item may be used for innovative strategies that result in debt reduction or savings for public higher education institutions; provided further, that the secretary of administration and finance shall convene a working group to develop a comprehensive facilities financing plan considering the future needs of the public higher education system to provide affordable, equitable, and competitive higher education for the commonwealth; and provided further, that the secretary's working group shall make recommendations to the governor not later than March 31, 2025 regarding the following: (i) a permanent financing structure using fair share revenues appropriated in this item to support the issuance of debt for the benefit of public higher education capital needs; (ii) to support the University of Massachusetts Building Authority and the Massachusetts State College Building Authority to finance investments in public higher education infrastructure; (iii) to develop an efficient, affordable, and effective process for application, approval, design, and delivery of capital projects for public higher education campuses in consultation with the executive office of education and the division of capital asset management and maintenance; and (iv) to develop a proposal for 10-year higher education bond legislation to invest up to \$2,500,000,000 for decarbonization, deferred maintenance, and facilities improvement for the public higher education system of the commonwealth

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

1596-2418 MASSRECONNECT 24,000,000

For MassReconnect, a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to students from the commonwealth who: (i) are enrolled in and pursuing a program of higher education at a public state community college; (ii) are age 25 or older as of the first day of classes; (iii) have not previously earned a college degree; and (iv) are enrolled in at least 6 credits; provided, that funds shall be used to cover any remaining tuition and fees, books and supplies due for any eligible student after all other sources of federal and state grant aid have been exhausted; provided further, that funds from this item may be expended on student support services, administration and marketing of said scholarship program; and provided further, that appropriated funds may be expended for programs or activities during the summer months

Education and Transportation Fund 100%

