

# 5 Highlights: Massachusetts State Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

We have a budget! Massachusetts was the last state in the country to file a budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

The Commonwealth's FY 2023 budget represents an increase of about \$5 billion – or 10.7% – over the previous year, including increases for multiple early, elementary/secondary, and post-secondary education funding streams.

## Here are five highlights from this year's budget:

**1 The budget includes nearly \$6 billion in state funding for districts and schools – \$485 million more than last year.** This increase represents the second year of implementation of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA), which changed the state's school funding formula, known as Chapter 70. In addition, the budget includes \$15 million for scholarship and loan repayment programs to help diversify the educator workforce.

**2 The FY23 budget increases funding for early education and care,** bringing the state closer to implementing several of the Special Legislative Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission's recommendations. This year's investments include:

- \$250 million in Commonwealth Cares for Children stabilization grants,
- \$175 million for a new High-Quality Education and Care Affordability Fund,
- \$60 million for a rate reserve to increase salaries for teachers and others at subsidized providers, and
- \$31.5 million in grants to Head Start programs across the state.

**3 The budget reflects a commitment to higher education students** by increasing the Community College SUCCESS Fund to \$14 million (\$3.5 million more than last year's budget) and investing \$175.1 million in the State Scholarship Program – \$44.6 million more than last year.

**4 This budget commits to providing free school meals for all students next school year,** regardless of whether the federal government extends this pandemic-era program. The state is investing \$110 million to ensure all students can receive free meals in school.

**5 The budget increases investments in Early College** to \$19 million – \$8 million more than last year's budget.



The Fiscal year 2023 budget includes **\$52.7 Billion** in spending.