Massachusetts Assistance for Student Success Program

III. PERFORMANCE BONUS
The Performance Bonus Grant was created to acknowledge and reward the achievement of the Commonwealth’s neediest students in their pursuit of higher education. The Performance Bonus provides a financial incentive for students to perform well in college and persist toward the achievement of a post-secondary education degree or credential.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Massachusetts resident
- Enrolled in an associate or bachelors degree program
- Expected Family Contribution of Zero (EFC= 0)
- Completed at least 24 college credits beyond high school
- Eligible to receive a MASSGrant
- Student must have achieved a 3.0 (or higher) Grade Point Average (GPA) by the start of the academic year for which Performance Bonus award is made. If GPA falls below a 3.0 at the end of the fall semester, student can receive the spring disbursement, but must bring GPA to a 3.0 (or better) in order to be eligible the next academic year
- Enrolled as a full-time student (12 undergraduate credits or its equivalent)
- If enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) program courses, the student must be simultaneously enrolled in either a certificate, associate or bachelors degree program. Credits a student earns for ESL program courses may be counted towards his/her full-time enrollment status.

**ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION**

An eligible institution is defined as a state approved public, private, independent, nonprofit institution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that award associate or bachelors degrees.

**AWARD VALUE:**

- $500 per academic year if enrolled in a degree program at a four-year institution
- $350 per academic year if enrolled in a degree program at a two-year institution

Note: Performance Bonus awards are disbursed in two equal payments

**CERTIFICATION PROCESS:**

Potential Performance Bonus recipients will appear on a separate Certification Roster. Institutions must provide GPA’s for all eligible students and certify that they meet all other eligibility criteria for the Performance Bonus Program.

- Performance Bonus awards will appear on subsequent Payment Rosters
- Additional Performance Bonus recipients will appear on Supplemental Performance Bonus Certification Rosters
- Notification of Performance Bonus awards to students will be sent by OSFA

Note: As a processing rule, institutions must first adjust MASSGrant awards whenever the combination of MASSGrant and Performance Bonus result in an over award.