

# MassReconnect at Cape Cod Community College

*Bringing higher education access to more members of our community*

Dr. John Cox, President

Sheila Vaughn, Director of Admissions

# What is MassReconnect?

- Initiated by the Governor and Legislature for FY2024. \$20 million allotted for the first year along with \$100,000 for each college.
- Makes community college free for those who:
  - Are 25-or-older at the start of their classes
  - Do not already have a college degree
  - Are Massachusetts residents
- The intent is to expand access to higher education for adult learners, providing them with the education and credentialing needed to move forward with local careers.
- Community colleges educate more than half of all students enrolled in higher education in Massachusetts.





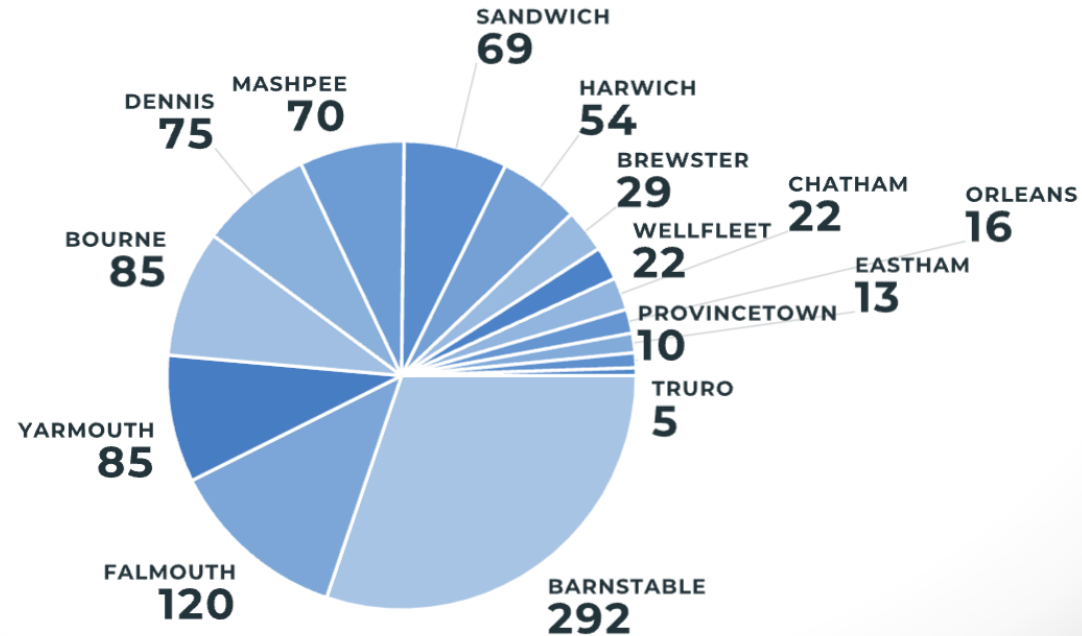
# What is MassReconnect?

- This is a **last dollar** scholarship.
- Before State dollars are distributed, eligible students must first complete the FAFSA. Once all other aid is distributed, MassReconnect funding kicks in.
- **Important to Note:** the majority of our students **ARE** eligible for financial aid and would have attended college for free just by doing the FAFSA!
- Since launched: 1,144 students have attended for free!
- **511 under-25**
- **933 25-or-older.**



# MASSRECONNECT IN BARNSTABLE COUNTY

967 students (67% of all enrolled in Reconnect)



# Significant Enrollment Gains

**Fall 2023** – 11% enrollment increase from previous year

**Spring 2024** – 30% enrollment increase from previous year

**FALL 2023**

2,685 CREDIT STUDENTS

21,803 CREDITS

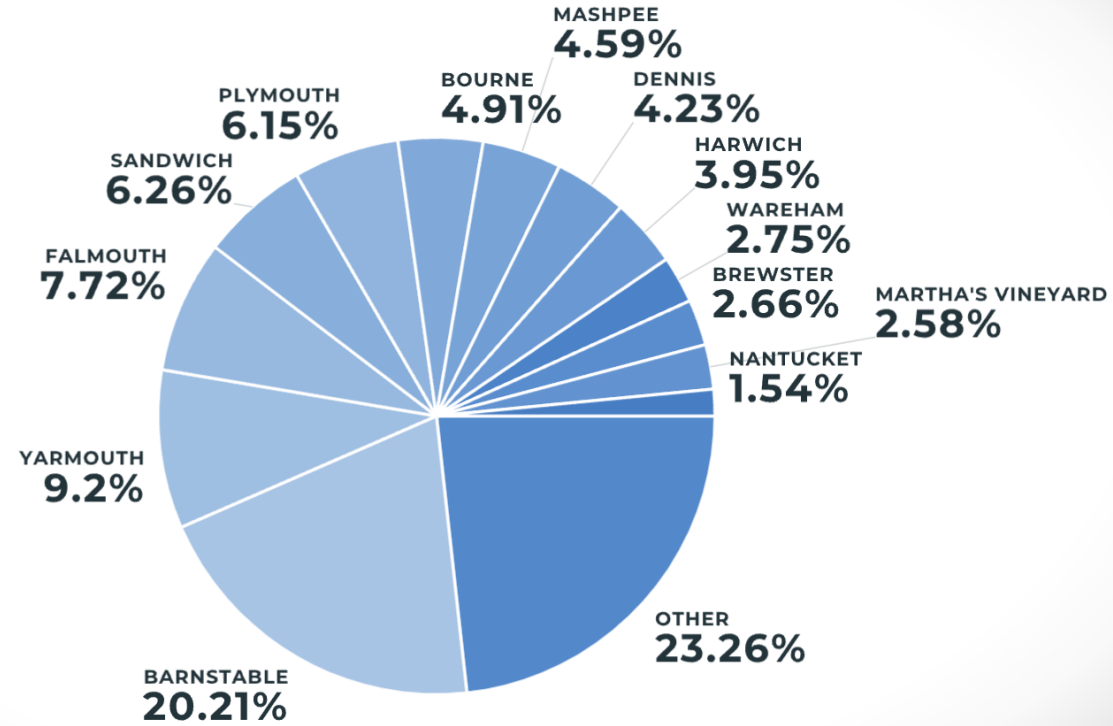
**SPRING 2024**

2,798 CREDIT STUDENTS

22,295 CREDITS

DOES NOT INCLUDE SPRING QUICK TERM ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

# ENROLLMENT BY TOWN





# Lessons Learned from Year One

- Access to higher education is/was the primary barrier for many prospective students. Despite our comparative lower costs to 4-year institutions, higher education is still a large expense.
- MassReconnect has driven enrollment in key programs that impact our community including Health Sciences, Business, Nursing, and Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT).
- The College's effort to model modern, flexible education during COVID has helped us thrive.
- Hyflex classes, well-trained faculty, more online options, and dedicated support services.



# Preparing for the Future

- Current plans to expand free community college are under consideration.
- We have a seat at the planning table for these conversations.
- Expanded on-campus and virtual support services continue to be a priority to ensure success.
- Reshaping our Career Services area to better connect students and graduates with local businesses.
- Fall enrollment is underway!

