

# MASSACHUSETTS AGREES: DEFEND PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

## THE CUTS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION MUST BE STOPPED

Massachusetts prides itself on its commitment to public higher education. However, in the midst of a global pandemic, campus executives are pursuing layoffs, furloughs and program cuts — instead of fighting for the funding we need to safely reopen campuses.

Just last month, the UMass Board of Trustees approved a \$3.3 billion fiscal year 2021 budget that will impact almost one-third of the workforce. **Five hundred workers have already received layoff notices, and hundreds of adjunct faculty have not been rehired for the fall. UMass has also furloughed 3,000 people.** The UMass system is in the [top five employers in Massachusetts](#), with 24,000 employees.

And Governor Baker has only allocated \$25 million in public higher education relief across the board — a sliver of the \$264 million budget gap at UMass alone.

Now, 29 campuses across the state are set to experience deep cuts right before they're expected to reopen:

- Springfield Technical Community College is **closing seven certificate programs** and laying off tenured faculty.
- Salem State faculty and professional administrators have taken layoffs and a **four-week furlough** amounting to a **13% pay cut** despite the fact that the university has reserves of \$13 million, plus a multimillion-dollar line of credit.
- **Dozens of programs have been cut** in the past month including the Children's School at Quinsigamond Community College, which provided early education to children of students, faculty, and staff, as well as the broader community.

UMass President **Marty Meehan** and Commissioner of Higher Education **Carlos Santiago** are known for having powerful political connections at the State House and on Capitol Hill. But they've done little to fight for funding in this critical moment.



## CUTS LEAVE CAMPUSES UNPREPARED

These cuts and layoffs will leave campuses unprepared for the fall, without the resources for proper health and safety standards. Social distancing mandates smaller class sizes, which require more faculty. Additionally, the very staff we all rely on to keep our facilities clean and safe are among those facing the deepest cuts. These cuts will compromise the quality of our education while also putting our students, faculty and staff at greater risk.

**Public higher education disproportionately serves groups already hard hit by the pandemic. Cutting resources will damage opportunities for low-income students and students of color.**



## FACULTY & STAFF CALL ON EXECUTIVES TO DO THEIR JOB

Now, faculty and staff from all 29 campuses are pushing to **roll back the staff cuts and furloughs** and **promote a robust health plan**, with adequate testing and PPE.

We need a strong, centralized COVID-19 response and prevention plan to combat the virus on campuses whenever students return. The furloughs and cuts to essential staff and faculty will make it even harder to maintain the academic integrity of our learning environments.



To learn more and to find out  
how you can help, visit:  
**[MassachusettsAgrees.org](https://MassachusettsAgrees.org)**