

INTRODUCTION

In the 1960s, a well-known bumper sticker exclaimed “Don’t be a Fool. Stay in School.” Today, many argue that to succeed in the 21st Century workplace, one needs at least a four-year college education. To obtain many of the best paid jobs in the Commonwealth, there is truth in this statement. To compete with young people who are coming to Massachusetts with an advanced education, it is necessary that we do everything we can to assure that all of our residents who could benefit from a bachelor’s degree or graduate study are afforded this opportunity.

Yet, as this report will show, the majority of job openings in Massachusetts between now and 2022 are expected to require no more than a good vocational high school education (with associated on-the-job training), some college, or a community college professional credential or associates degree. Making sure that Massachusetts invests in these schools is every bit as important as its investments in its state colleges and universities.

This report has six sections:

- **SECTION 1** provides information on the methodology we used to project detailed occupation needs from 2012 through 2022 for Massachusetts as a whole, for each of the Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) within the state, and occupational supply from the Commonwealth’s vocational schools and vocational programs in comprehensive schools.
- **SECTION 2** provides data on projected net new jobs, replacement jobs, and total job openings through 2022 for the Commonwealth.
- **SECTION 3** provides data on the educational requirements for the expected growth in job openings through 2022.
- **SECTION 4** provides an assessment of how much of the expected growth in job openings by specific occupation can currently be filled by the state’s regional vocational high schools and vocational programs in the Commonwealth’s comprehensive high schools.
- **SECTION 5** provides the results of a recent survey of Massachusetts Vocational School administrators carried out by the Dukakis Center regarding their perceptions of what occupational fields will be expanding and the need for additional capacity to meet these needs.
- **SECTION 6** includes a summary and conclusions.