Remedial education is costly. Nationally, students in remediation spend \textbf{approximately $1.3 billion in yearly out-of-pocket costs} on remedial courses that build basic skills in reading and math but do not count toward a degree, dramatically contributing to their overall student debt load.\(^1\) A better K-12 education would do much to address this issue.

**Why Massachusettsans Should Be Concerned**

Taking remedial courses extends the time and costs of obtaining a degree or certificate while reducing the likelihood of completion. This has a significant social and financial impact on students.

- Students in Massachusetts spend a combined \textbf{$20,743,000 out of pocket} on remedial courses.\(^2\)
- \textbf{54 percent of incoming students} in Massachusetts had to take one or more remedial courses.\(^3\)

Nationally, the cost of remediation adds up. According to a report by Complete College America, the average total cost of an additional year of college for a two-year associate's degree nationally is \textbf{$50,933 in cost of attendance and lost wages}.\(^4\) An extra year for a four-year bachelor's degree costs students an average of \textbf{$68,153 in cost of attendance and lost wages}.\(^5\) Nationally, fewer than 50 percent of students complete their remedial programs and even less graduate with a degree or certificate.\(^6\)

Increasing access to a college education must mean more than just increasing enrollment rates. To ensure that students stay in college and complete a degree, we must ensure that students have the skills they need to succeed.

\textbf{End Notes}

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
5. Ibid.