



# MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

Address 550 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Phone 410-706-2085  
Email [mlds.center@maryland.gov](mailto:mlds.center@maryland.gov)  
Website [www.MLDSCenter.org](http://www.MLDSCenter.org)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MLDS Governing Board  
**FROM:** Ross Goldstein, Executive Director  
**DATE:** December 1, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)

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### Purpose

Governing Board member and Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) President Matthew Power has asked for the Board to consider the possible participation by the MLDS Center with the U.S. Census Bureau on its [Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes](#) project.

### Background

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) are experimental tabulations developed by researchers at the U.S. Census Bureau. PSEO data provide earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates by degree level, degree major, and post-secondary institution. These statistics are generated by matching university transcript data with a national database of jobs, using state-of-the-art confidentiality protection mechanisms to protect the underlying data.

Post-secondary employment outcomes are only provided if a state or college or university in the state provides the Census Bureau with student transcript level data. Currently, neither the State of Maryland nor any colleges within the State of Maryland are participating in the project.

### Discussion

Mr. Power is interested in the MLDS Center providing data to the Census Bureau for participation with PSEO, noting that:

1. Participation will allow colleges and universities to have a fuller understanding of their graduates' workforce outcomes because it will be able to match graduates to national workforce data sources that are not available to the MLDS Center;
2. 27 other states participate at some level (publics, and/or independents, and/or community colleges); and
3. PSEO provides geographical information that allows users to see degree to industry sector and the geography of where graduates work by major.

In order for the Center to provide data to the Census Bureau, State law would need to be changed to allow redisclosure of student data for this limited purpose. There is a precedent for this type of data sharing; the law was amended to allow the MLDS Center to redisclose student data to the Maryland Comptroller for purposes of having student data matched with income data from tax filings. Mr. Power says that MICUA is willing to find a sponsor and coordinate with the other segments of higher education to get the bill passed.

This project would not add any data to the MLDS or enhance the system in any way. Microdata is shared with Census, and then aggregated files are produced for inclusion in PSEO. Census does not provide any custom tabulations or aggregations. Finally, PSEO only analyzes outcomes for college and university graduates. Analyses will not be conducted for high school graduates, college non-completers, or participants in workforce development programs.

**Action**

Consider participation with PSEO.