



MLDS CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board
FROM: Ann Kellogg, Ph.D., Director of Reporting Services
DATE: December 6, 2024
SUBJECT: Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Update

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide information to the Governing Board on the Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) progress toward providing data to PSEO.

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)

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.

Background

During the 2024 legislative session, [SB 444 / HB 634](#) - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information - United States Census Bureau - (Chapter 64) was passed. This legislation allows the governing board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDSC) to authorize the redisclosure of data to PSEO. This topic was discussed at the June 14, 2024 and September 13, 2024 MLDSC governing board meeting.

At the September Governing Board meeting, MLDS Center was informed by MHEC that MHEC will proceed with entering into a data sharing agreement with PSEO and be the agency of record for PSEO and the PSEO Coalition.

Update

The following steps toward sharing data with PSEO have been completed since the September Governing Board meeting:

1. Kimberly Smith Ward, MHEC's Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel, has reviewed the MOU provided to MHEC by the Census and determined there are not any conditions in the MOU that would prevent MHEC from executing the agreement and sharing the data that are required to participate in PSEO. MHEC will be working on finalizing the MOU over the next two to three months.
2. MHEC and MLDSC have been added to the Postsecondary Employment Outcomes Coalition (PSEO Coalition) as ex-officio members (Dr. Ann Kellogg, MHEC/MLDSC and Dr. Barbara Schmertz, MHEC). The PSEO Coalition is an independent advocacy organization comprised of state agencies and higher education institutions who share data with PSEO. The PSEO Coalition

engages with Census staff to influence future directions for data collection and data use, including the development of policy-relevant reports.

3. Drs. Ann Kellogg and Barbara Schmertz met with PSEO staff to discuss the required data elements and required file layouts for participation in PSEO. MHEC has determined it does have the data required for participation (with one exception - CIP Code, see item 4 below) and has determined it can recode its data to comply with PSEO requirements. During the first fiscal quarter of 2025 MHEC will 1) Review the enrollment files (8 collections with 2 million records annually) and determine criteria for inclusion as an enrolled student, and 2) Develop scripts to recode all enrollment, degree and demographic data to align to PSEO file specifications.
4. Participation in PSEO requires that all enrollment and degree records include CIP Codes (national coding scheme for college major code). MHEC has collected CIP Codes in enrollment and degree files since 2022; however, prior year collections only include program taxonomy code (or HEGIS code). MHEC was informed by PSEO that they require all participants to have at least 5 years of data with CIP Code to be able to participate in PSEO. MHEC met with representatives from the PSEO Coalition to discuss funding opportunities for extracting and linking CIP Codes from MHEC's Academic Program Inventory for all data collections prior to 2022. This is a labor intensive process that requires linking by college, degree-level, program taxonomy code, and enrollment/degree dates. MHEC will be submitting a grant application through the PSEO Coalition in January 2025 to pursue funding for this work.

Action

No action is required. This is informational only.