MLDS CENTER
Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board

FROM: Ross Goldstein

DATE: December 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Departmental Legislation

At the September 2025 Governing Board meeting the Board approved a legislative proposal to amend state law to allow the Governing Board to permit external data sharing to allow the Center's participation with Washington D.C. and Virginia on a longitudinal multistate report. The data sharing will be facilitated by the Coleridge Initiative and will utilize its FedRAMP data facility, the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF).

After the meeting the legislative proposal was submitted to the Governor's legislative office, which reviewed the bill and approved it as departmental legislation. The current version of the legislation is attached to this memorandum. Note that currently, the legislation includes the repeal of the authorization for data sharing with the Census Bureau.

The MLDS Center will monitor the movement of the legislative during the session, which begins on January 8, 2026. Staff will be available to provide testimony and supporting information as needed.

F1

Bill No.: _____

Requested: _____

Committee: _____

By: **Leave Blank (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center)**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – External Data Sharing With**
3 **Third–Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting – Authorization**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Governing Board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data
5 System Center to provide certain student and workforce data to a third–party data
6 center under certain circumstances; requiring each third–party data center to agree
7 to comply with certain requirements relating to the data the center receives;
8 requiring the Center to enter into a written data sharing agreement with certain
9 third–party data centers; repealing the Governing Board's power to authorize the
10 sharing of data with the U.S. Census Bureau under certain circumstances; and
11 generally relating to the authority of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System
12 Center to share data externally.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 24–703(a) and 24–704(a)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Education

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
    [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1   Section 24–703(f) and 24–704(g)

2   Annotated Code of Maryland

3   (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

4 BY repealing

5   Article – Education

6   Section 24–703.2(e)

7   Annotated Code of Maryland

8   (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

9 BY adding to

10   Article – Education

11   Section 24–703.4

12   Annotated Code of Maryland

13   (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

17 24–703.

18   (a)   There is a Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center.

19   (f)   The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

20   (1)   Serve as a central repository of student data and workforce data in the

21 Maryland Longitudinal Data System, including data sets provided by:

22   (i)   The State Department of Education;

23   (ii)   Local education agencies;

24   (iii)   The Maryland Higher Education Commission;

25   (iv)   Institutions of higher education;

1   (v)   The Maryland Department of Labor;

2   (vi)   The Department of Juvenile Services; and

3   (vii)   The Social Services Administration within the Department of
4 Human Services;

5   (2)   Oversee and maintain the warehouse of the Maryland Longitudinal
6 Data System data sets;

7   (3)   Ensure routine and ongoing compliance with the federal Family
8 Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other relevant privacy laws and policies, including:

9   (i)   The required use of de–identified data in data research and
10 reporting;

11   (ii)   The required disposition of information that is no longer needed;

12   (iii)   Providing data security, including the capacity for audit trails;

13   (iv)   Providing for performance of regular audits for compliance with
14 data privacy and security standards; and

15   (v)   Implementing guidelines and policies that prevent the reporting
16 of other potentially identifying data;

17   (4)   Conduct research using timely and accurate student data and
18 workforce data to improve the State's education system and guide decision making by State
19 and local governments, educational agencies, institutions, teachers, and other education
20 professionals;

21   (5)   Conduct research relating to:

22   (i)   The impact of State and federal education programs;

23   (ii)   The performance of educator preparation programs;

1   (iii)   Best practices regarding classroom instruction, education

2 programs and curriculum, and segment alignment; and

3   (iv)   The impact child welfare programs have on the educational and

4 economic outcomes of students;

5   (6)   At the direction of the Accountability and Implementation Board

6 established in Title 5, Subtitle 4 of this article provide:

7   (i)   A researcher designated by the Board access to the data in the

8 Maryland Longitudinal Data System in accordance with the procedures for staff

9 authorization and data access established by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System

10 governing board;

11   (ii)   Aggregate data tables; or

12   (iii)   Research or evaluation;

13   (7)   Analyze social determinants from the following State agencies and

14 appropriate local agencies that impact the education performance of students and indicate

15 the need for wraparound services of students:

16   (i)   The Maryland Department of Health;

17   (ii)   The Department of Juvenile Services; and

18   (iii)   The Department of Human Services;

19   (8)   To the extent practicable, conduct longitudinal studies of the items

20 under this section to evaluate the impact of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future on the

21 State;

22   **(9)**   **SHARE DATA WITH THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTERS ONLY IN**

23 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 24–703.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

24   **[**(9)**] (10)**   Fulfill information and data requests to facilitate State and

25 federal education reporting with existing State agencies as appropriate; and

1   **[**(10)**] (11)**   Fulfill approved public information requests.

2   24–703.2.

3   **[**(e)   The Governing Board may authorize the Center to send student information
4   to the United States Census Bureau.**]**

5   **24–703.4.**

6   **(A)   (1)   IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
7   **INDICATED.**

8   **(2)   "FEDRAMP" MEANS THE FEDERAL RISK AND AUTHORIZATION**
9   **MANAGEMENT   PROGRAM   MANAGED   BY   THE   U.S.   GENERAL   SERVICES**
10   **ADMINISTRATION.**

11   **(3)   "THIRD–PARTY   DATA   CENTER"   MEANS   A   SECURE**
12   **COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH PLATFORM MANAGED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN A**
13   **STATE AGENCY THAT ALLOWS STATES TO SECURELY SHARE DATA FOR PURPOSES OF**
14   **DATA MATCHING AND MULTISTATE REPORTING.**

15   **(B)   SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNING**
16   **BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE THE CENTER TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL–LEVEL STUDENT**
17   **DATA AND INDIVIDUAL–LEVEL WORKFORCE DATA TO A THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER**
18   **ONLY   FOR   THE   PURPOSE   OF   FACILITATING   MULTISTATE   RESEARCH   AND**
19   **REPORTING ON STUDENT OUTCOMES.**

20   **(C)   (1)   BEFORE AUTHORIZING THE CENTER TO PROVIDE DATA TO A**
21   **THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER, THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT THE**
22   **THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER:**

23   **(I)   HAS DATA HANDLING AND SECURITY STANDARDS THAT ARE**
24   **AT LEAST AS RIGOROUS AS THOSE EMPLOYED BY THE CENTER;**

25   **(II)   IS A FEDRAMP–AUTHORIZED AND –CERTIFIED PLATFORM;**

1   **(III)   USES PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ONLY TO
2 THE EXTENT THAT IS NECESSARY FOR MATCHING STUDENT DATA AND WORKFORCE
3 DATA WITH DATA FROM OTHER STATES;**

4   **(IV)   EMPLOYS PRIVACY–ENHANCING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING
5 DATA HASHING, IN PLACE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE DATA WHENEVER
6 APPROPRIATE;**

7   **(V)   USES ONLY DE–IDENTIFIED DATA FOR ANALYTIC
8 PURPOSES;**

9   **(VI)   RELEASES ONLY AGGREGATE DATA IN REPORTS AND OTHER
10 OUTPUT; AND**

11   **(VII)   DOES NOT REPORT DATA IN ANY FORM THAT MAY BE USED
12 TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THE SIZE OR UNIQUENESS OF THE
13 POPULATION UNDER CONSIDERATION.**

14   **(2)   BEFORE PROVIDING ANY DATA TO A THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER,
15 THE CENTER SHALL ENTER INTO A WRITTEN DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH A
16 THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER, IN WHICH THE THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER AGREES
17 TO COMPLY WITH:**

18   **(I)   THE CONDITIONS LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
19 SUBSECTION;**

20   **(II)   STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO DATA PRIVACY;
21 AND**

22   **(III)   ANY OTHER CRITERIA THE GOVERNING BOARD
23 DETERMINES ARE APPROPRIATE.**

24   **(3)   EACH YEAR, THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL REVIEW EACH DATA
25 SHARING AGREEMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE USE OF STUDENT DATA AND
26 WORKFORCE DATA BY THE THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER REMAINS COMPLIANT WITH
27 THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.**

1   **(D)**   BEFORE PROVIDING ANY DATA TO A THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTER, THE
2 GOVERNING BOARD SHALL AFFIRMATIVELY APPROVE:

3   **(1)**   THE SHARING OF THE DATA ELEMENTS THAT CONSTITUTE EACH
4 DATA SET;

5   **(2)**   THE SHARING OF EACH DATA SET; AND

6   **(3)**   EACH PROPOSED RESEARCH OR REPORTING PROJECT THAT
7 SEEKS TO USE MARYLAND DATA.

8 24–704.

9   (a)   There is a Governing Board of the Center.

10   (g)   The Governing Board shall:

11   (1)   Establish the organizational placement and location of the Center after
12 seeking and evaluating proposals from interested entities based on criteria that shall
13 include:

14   (i)   The ability of the entity to support the operation of a large data
15 system;

16   (ii)   Strength of funding support; and

17   (iii)   Expertise in data security;

18   (2)   Develop an implementation plan to phase in the establishment and
19 operation of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System and the Center;

20   (3)   Provide general oversight and direction to the Center;

21   (4)   Approve the annual budget for the Center;

22   (5)   Establish the policy and research agenda of the Center;

1   (6) Before the incorporation of any individual data in the Maryland
2 Longitudinal Data System:

3   (i) Create an inventory of the individual student data:

4   1. Proposed to be maintained in the system; and

5   2. Required to be reported by State and federal education
6 mandates;

7   (ii) Develop and implement policies to comply with the federal
8 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and any other privacy measures, as required
9 by law or the Governing Board; and

10   (iii) Develop a detailed data security and safeguarding plan that
11 includes:

12   1. Authorized access and authentication for authorized
13 access;

14   2. Privacy compliance standards;

15   3. Privacy and security audits;

16   4. Breach notification and procedures; and

17   5. Data retention and disposition policies;

18   **(7)** **APPROVE DATA SHARING WITH THIRD–PARTY DATA CENTERS IN**
19 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 24–703.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

20   **[**(7)**] (8)** Oversee routine and ongoing compliance with the federal Family
21 Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other relevant privacy laws and policies;

22   **[**(8)**] (9)** Ensure that any contracts that govern databases that are
23 outsourced to private vendors include express provisions that safeguard privacy and
24 security and include penalties for noncompliance;

1   **[**(9)**] (10)** Designate a standard and compliance timeline for electronic
2 transcripts that includes the use of SASID to ensure the uniform and efficient transfer of
3 student data between local education agencies and institutions of higher education; and

4   **[**(10)**] (11)** Review research requirements and set policies for the approval
5 of data requests from State and local agencies, the Maryland General Assembly, and the
6 public.

7   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2026.