



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members
FROM: Ross Goldstein, Executive Director
DATE: March 7, 2025
SUBJECT: 2025 Legislative Session

During the current legislative session, the following bills have an impact on or are of interest to the MLDS Center. The status of each bill as of March 1, 2025 is noted.

1. [SB 713 / HB 713 - Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students \(Informed Enrollment Act\)](#) - In the event that the U.S. Department of Education discontinues the operation of the College Scorecard, this bill requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to make the data contained in the College Scorecard available to Maryland institutions of higher education (IHEs) for them to provide on their websites. The MLDS Center is identified as a resource for MHEC to compile the data necessary to provide the Scorecard information to the IHEs. The majority of the data reported on the College Scorecard is from data reported by IHEs to the U.S. Department of Education through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). One component of the Scorecard data that is not available from IPEDS data is the workforce outcomes reporting. The MLDS Center can provide this information. In fact, the Center is in final testing of a new online reporting tool that will allow colleges to compile reports on the workforce outcomes of their graduates. As such, the Center can accommodate this request using existing resources.
 - o **Status** - Neither the Senate or House bills have had a hearing.
2. [HB 298 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Demographic Data Collection - Parental Status](#) - This bill requires MHEC to collect data regarding the parental status of students from each public institution of higher education in the State. The data must include responses from students on whether the student is a parent, acting as a parent or as a legal guardian; the age of the children for which the student is responsible and the type of caregiving responsibilities. This bill does not place any requirements on the MLDS Center. Nonetheless, researchers have been interested in this topic and, if the bill passes, this data could provide useful information to the MLDS Center.
 - o **Status** - The bill has passed the House.
3. [SB 9 / HB 479 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Academic Program Approval - Revisions](#) - This bill makes revisions to a bill that passed last year requiring MHEC to produce uniform data about workforce needs to inform State policies relating to the State Plan for Higher Education and program approvals. Last year's bill required MHEC to consult with other state agencies, including the MLDS Center in compiling the data. The revisions address issues related to the program approval process and do not impact the MLDS Center.
 - o **Status** - SB 9 has passed the Senate.

FY 2026 Budget

The Governor's budget allocated \$3,504,025 for the MLDS Center for FY 26. The budget analysis by the Department of Legislative Services contained no proposed cuts and did not raise any questions or issues for response by the Center. The allocation represents a small decrease of approximately \$22,000 from the FY 25 allocation. However, that reduction is mostly due to the fact that there will be no more grant funds available because the Workforce Data Quality Initiative project concludes at the end of FY 25. The Center's general fund allocation actually increased this year by approximately \$376,000.

Action

Informational.