



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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TO: MLDS Governing Board
FROM: Mr. Ross Goldstein, Executive Director
DATE: March 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Project Approvals and Updates

Purpose

This agenda item is to update the Board on projects that have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Director under *Project Approval and Management Procedures*; projects that, when necessary, require Board review and approval; and updates on ongoing projects. Please note that in addition to the information presented for each new project, this memorandum also includes the complete project abstract submitted by the researcher for your further information and review.

Projects for Consideration

ERA # 130	Sequences to Success in Maryland
Researcher	Dr. Brit Henderson MDRC
Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the most common school-to-work pipelines taken by young adults in Maryland? 2. What are the labor market outcomes, including median earnings and percentage employed in MD lighthouse industries (e.g., life sciences and healthcare, cybersecurity and IT, and aerospace and defense) associated with each of the main pipelines? Note for all questions, exact definitions will be refined in consultation with MHEC. 3. To what extent is the timing and/or sequencing of postsecondary education associated with different labor market outcomes (e.g., earnings, time to employment, and industry)? 4. How do pipeline patterns vary across key subgroups of students defined by demographic characteristics, including foster and vulnerable youth? Note that key subgroups will be identified in consultation with MHEC. 5. How do the labor market outcomes associated with each of the identified pipelines vary across key subgroups of students?
RPB Review	The RPB was supportive of the project.

Exec. Dir. Determination	Approved. The subject of this project is responsive to the Research Agenda, provides information about student performance that can be used to improve the state's education system, requires the use of longitudinal cross sector data, and is being conducted by a qualified researcher.
Board Action	Informational

ERA # 135	Evaluating Expanding SUCCESS in Maryland Community Colleges
Researcher	Dr. Emily Finchum-Mason MHEC
Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent does workforce participation for Expanding SUCCESS participants change after participation in the program? 2. What is the impact of the Expanding SUCCESS program on long-term student outcomes, including time to employment and post-graduation wages?"
RPB Review	The RPB was supportive of the project.
Exec. Dir. Determination	Approved. The subject of this project is responsive to the Research Agenda, provides information about student performance that can be used to improve the state's education system, requires the use of longitudinal cross sector data, and is being conducted by a qualified researcher.
Board Action	Informational

ERA # 138	Early Childhood Data Indicators for Maryland Counties
Researcher	Dr. Jane Arnold Lincove UMBC

<p>Research Questions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who has access to public school pre-k seats in Maryland? What are key disparities in access by county and student demographics? 2. How does kindergarten readiness vary across counties and subgroups in Maryland? 3. How does kindergarten readiness vary for public school pre-k students, compared to other parent-reported early childhood education (ECE) and childcare settings? 4. Do early grade (pk-2) discipline events and special education identification rates vary by county, demographics, access to public school pk, and prior ECE/childcare settings?
<p>RPB Review</p>	<p>RPB did not make a recommendation. The MSDE Director of Research raised concerns that the research may conflict with MSDE research on this topic and noted that the data for the project was almost exclusively MSDE data.</p>
<p>Exec. Dir. Determination</p>	<p>Request for approval. The subject of this project is responsive to the Research Agenda, provides information about student performance that can be used to improve the state's education system, requires the use of longitudinal cross sector data, and is being conducted by a qualified researcher.</p>
<p>Board Action</p>	