



**Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Governing Board
Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2026 - DRAFT**

The meeting of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center Governing Board was held on March 13, 2026, via teleconference. Ms. Portia Wu, Chair of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following Governing Board members were in attendance:

- Ms. Portia Wu, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor
- Dr. Sanjay Rai, Secretary of Higher Education
- Dr. Jennifer Lynch, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Education & Engagement, University System of Maryland (Designee for Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor)
- Dr. Matthew Duque, Director of the Office of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation, Maryland State Department of Education (Designee for State Superintendent Wright)
- Mr. William Willoughby, Director of Systems Operations, SSA, Maryland Department of Human Services (Designee for Interim Secretary Gloria Burnet)
- Dr. John Irvine, Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation, Department of Juvenile Service, (Designee for Secretary Tolentino)
- Mr. Matthew Power, President, Maryland Independent College and University Association
- Dr. Monica Randall, Deputy Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (Designee for Dr. Phillips, Executive Director)
- Dr. Cheryl Rollins, Director, Institutional Research, Morgan State University (Designee for President Wilson)
- Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
 - Ms. Hussainatu Blake, CEO, ED2Tech
 - Mr. Frederick Taylor, Managing Director, CWR Technologies, LLC
- Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, Maryland State Board of Nursing
- Ms. Jamie Shopland, Frederick County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee

The following MLDS Center staff were in attendance:

- Mr. Ross Goldstein, Executive Director, MLDS Center
 - Dr. Angela Henneberger, Director of Research, MLDS Center and Research Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, School of Social Work
- Dr. Ann Kellogg, Director of Reporting Services, MLDS Center, and MHEC Liaison
- Ms. Molly Abend, Data Management Coordinator, MLDS Center, and MSDE Liaison
- Mr. Roy Enehiroana, Data Analyst, MLDS Center, and Labor Liaison
- Ms. Tejal Cherry, Chief Information Officer, MLDS Center
- Mr. Alan Dunklow, Assistant Attorney General
- Ms. Aiyana Green-Odle, Executive Associate

Quorum: Ms. Wu noted that there was a quorum present. Ms. Wu also noted that the meeting was being recorded and then reviewed the agenda.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes: Ms. Wu asked for a motion to approve the December Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Rai and was seconded by Dr. Bedell. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bylaws - Review and Revision

Mr. Ross Goldstein began by noting that the bylaws require an annual review at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year (*see* Bylaws Section 1.3C.). The March meeting is the first meeting of the calendar year. There are no changes or additions being proposed by staff this year.

Mr. Goldstein also noted that the bylaws establish a rotating vice-chairmanship. Based on the rotation schedule in section 2.3C, the Secretary of Juvenile Services is the Vice-Chair of the Governing Board for the upcoming year. As stated in the bylaws, the Vice-Chair fulfills the role and duties of the Chair should the Chair be unavailable to do so.

There was no discussion or proposed changes.

Center Output

Reporting Services

Dr. Ann Kellogg, Director of the Reporting Services Branch, provided an update on the work done by the Reporting Services Branch on the Center Output Priorities. Three quarters through the Output Priorities year (which corresponds to the fiscal year), Dr. Kellogg noted that many of the Center's output priorities are either completed or in progress. The last three months have been particularly busy responding to legislatively mandated reports required of the Center and the partner agencies. The Reporting Services Branch has also been working to support the development of the Higher Education State Plan.

Dr. Kellogg next discussed ongoing work on the development of a “twin” to MD-CLaWE; currently referred to as “T-CLaWE.” T-CLaWE will explore outcomes of educator preparation program completers and look at whether they are teaching in Maryland schools as teachers or otherwise engaged in the workforce generally. User testing will take place in April with the goal of having the system live and public-facing by the June Governing Board meeting.

Next, Dr. Kellogg presented highlights of some of the work of the Reporting Service Branch:

1. *Nursing Licenses* - Dr. Kellogg recently presented findings from her analysis of nursing license data, showing that an "incredibly high rate" (around 95%) of nursing graduates are receiving licenses to practice in Maryland. Secretary Rai was pleased with this finding, noting that the capacity for nursing programs has increased over the last ten years, leading to a 22% increase statewide in nurses being produced and passing exams. Dr. Kellogg noted that this analysis shows the importance of licensing data and the ability to link licensing and education data to get a complete picture of workforce outcomes. Ms. Scott noted that the Board of Nursing is developing an enterprise licensing and management system, which presents an opportunity to improve data collection and reporting capabilities, including

tracking the longevity of nurses licensed in Maryland. Ms. Wu encouraged the MLDS Center team to have a granular discussion with agencies like MDH, who are revising their systems, to help identify helpful data items and ensure similar data can be pulled across different forms of licensure.

2. *Workforce Pell* - Next Dr. Kellogg highlighted Maryland's leading role in the Workforce Pell negotiated rule making process. Maryland has been collecting workforce training completion data from community colleges for the past five years, which allowed the MLDS Center to inform the rulemaking process for Workforce Pell Grants by determining whether programs can meet requirements under consideration. Next, Dr. Kellogg highlighted the findings of her analysis of workforce training outcomes for multiple programs over three years, showing that median quarterly wages increased by about \$3,000 one year post-completion (resulting in an annual earning increase of approximately \$12,000). The data also showed a significant increase in labor market visibility, with participation rising from about 40% pre-training to 60-80% one year post-completion. Ms. Wu acknowledged the team's vital support during the rapid Workforce Pell rulemaking process and suggested adding a brief policy and regulatory update on Workforce Pell to the next Board meeting agenda in June.

Research Branch

Dr. Angela Henneberger, Research Branch Director, provided highlights on work done on Research Branch priorities. First, Dr. Henneberger discussed two recent Research Series presentations: (1) Dr. Yuxin Lin, a researcher at the Maryland Higher Education Commission presented on Maryland math reform initiatives in community colleges; and (2) Dr. Frim Ampaw, a researcher and professor at Morgan State University presented on the opportunity gap in Maryland. Dr. Henneberger noted that both presentations represented Research Series milestones: having a partner agency researcher and a Morgan State researcher present research using MLDS data. The next seminar is planned for May 8th and will feature research on the effects of dual enrollment on student outcomes.

Next Dr. Henneberger noted that the Research Branch developed three poster presentations for the University of Maryland, School of Social Work's *Research Day* convening. The theme of the convening was "partnerships" and each of the posters highlighted the partnership between MLDS Center and researchers as an exemplar in the field. Dr. Henneberger also noted that MLDS research will be presented at several conferences in the coming weeks, including EDFinance, American Education Research Association (AERA), and Society for Prevention Research.

Dr. Henneberger presented highlights from Research Briefs that will be forthcoming:

1. Computer Science (CS) Coursework - This research is led by Dr. Jing Liu at the University of Maryland, College Park. The research found that benefits occur through both direct CS coursework and school-level exposure to the CS coursework, demonstrating a positive impact even for students not enrolled. Importantly, while course-taking was lower among underrepresented students, the positive effects on computer science bachelor's degree receipt were similar or larger for students historically underrepresented in the field. Ms. Wu requested that the full research brief be circulated to the Board due to the promising and timely nature of the findings.

2. Computer Science Teacher Pipeline - This research was led by Dr. David Blazar, also at the University of Maryland, College Park. The research studied the computer science teacher workforce and found that many teachers leave computer science for other subjects over time. This underscores the need for computer science-specific training and credentialing pathways to stabilize the workforce.

Research findings on the teacher pipeline will be a focus of an upcoming convening titled "Enhancing the Teacher Pipeline in Maryland," scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd in Baltimore. The convening is supported by a State Longitudinal Data System policymaking grant from the Institute of Education Sciences.

Legislative Session 2026

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Goldstein reviewed the MLDS Center's Departmental Legislation, SB 56 and HB 293 entitled, - *MLDSC - External Data Sharing with Third-Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting - Authorization*. The bill allows the Board to authorize the Center to share data with a third party data center for the purpose of multi-state reporting. The current status of the bill: SB 56 passed the Senate unanimously and HB 293 passed the Ways and Means Committee. Notably the bill was opposed by the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee.

Both the House and Senate bills were amended as follows:

- The Governing Board may only authorize the sharing of data with one third-party data center at a time;
- Within 30 days of entering into a written data sharing agreement with a third-party data center, the MLDS Center must submit a report to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Ways and Means Committee that includes the name of the third-party data center, a summary of the data to be shared, and the purpose of and value to the state for entering into the data sharing agreement;
- Within one year of entering into a data sharing agreement, and each year thereafter, the Center shall report to the committees on the status of the data sharing agreement and how the data are being used to further the purposes and stated value of the data sharing agreement; and
- Any violations of the data sharing agreement and steps taken to remedy the violations.

In response to a question from Mr. Power, Mr. Goldstein clarified that the intention of the amendment is to limit the Center to only sharing data with one third-party data center. Ms. Shopland stated that she spoke with members of Ways and Means Committee and that there seems to be a lack of understanding of the power of the MLDS and the need for data to drive informed decision making. There is a perception that the Center comes back to the General Assembly every year to expand the scope of the system. Mr. Goldstein agreed with Ms. Shopland's assessment and stated that next year, prior to session, the Center would try to conduct a briefing about the Center and its work for the committees. Mr. Goldstein also noted that the General Assembly is on the Center's distribution list for Research Briefs and other updates.

Additional Legislation

Next Mr. Goldstein reviewed other legislation of interest to the Center.

1. HB 264 - Maryland Data Privacy and Protection Act of 2026 - The bill limits the personal information that may be collected, maintained, processed, and retained by units of State government; Requires certain personal information to be deleted or de-identified; requires each unit of State government to post a privacy notice on its website, as specified, and designate a Privacy Officer; requires DoIT to establish additional security requirements in applicable contracts; and expands the definition of “personal information” as it relates to the protection of information by government agencies. Mr. Goldstein noted that the bill would not have an impact on the Center directly, but may impact agency partners and their data collections.
2. HB 538 - Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students. This bill has no impact on the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center but is being followed because last year’s bill did have requirements for the Center.
3. HB 1305 - State Child Welfare System - Reporting - This bill requires reporting on the number of foster youth who enroll in college and graduate within six years, including a comparison with students not in the child welfare system. While the bill does not assign the reporting duties to the MLDS Center, the report requires linked longitudinal data that the Center maintains. The Center currently reports on the college going rate of foster youth pursuant to Education Article, §24-703.1(c), Annotated Code of Maryland, and can provide data to support this reporting requirement using existing resources.

FY 27 Operating Budget

Mr. Goldstein reported that the Governor’s budget allocated \$3,591,418 for the MLDS Center for FY 27. 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 increase of approximately \$87,000 from the FY 26 allocation. However, the Center no longer has federal grant funds to help offset certain costs. The Governor’s allocation is sufficient for the Center to fund the Research Branch close to the level it was at in the prior fiscal year. Mr. Goldstein thanked the Board for supporting the Center during the budget development process.

Ms. Wu, noting that demands on the MLDS will only increase, suggested a working group of the Board be formed to discuss strategies for seeking other forms of external support. Mr. Goldstein was supportive of the recommendation.

Data Inventory

Apprenticeship Maryland Program Data from the Department of Labor

Ms. Molly Abend, Data Management Coordinator, presented data from the Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning within the Maryland Department of Labor, which collects data on the Apprenticeship Maryland Program (AMP). AMP is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program offered to high school juniors and seniors and serves as a graduation pathway.

The following data elements are proposed for addition in the MLDS Data Inventory:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. First Name | 11. Employer Name |
| 2. Last Name | 12. Employer Industry |
| 3. Apprenticeship Agreement Number | 13. Start Date |
| 4. Date of Birth | 14. End Date |
| 5. Gender | 15. Start School Year |
| 6. Race/Ethnicity | 16. End School Year |
| 7. LEA | 17. Status |
| 8. High School | 18. Hours Completed |
| 9. Occupation Name | 19. Credential Earned |
| 10. Occupation SOC/ONET Code | |

Board Action: Mr. Power made a motion to approve the Apprenticeship Maryland Program data, which was seconded by Dr. Rai. The motion was unanimously approved.

Additions to Existing Collections

Next, Ms. Abend presented proposed additional data to existing collections.

High School Data from the Maryland State Department of Education - New elements were added to MSDE's High School Data Collection (HSDC) for SY2024-2025. The elements are related to the Seal of Biliteracy and capture information on the total number of seals a student attains as well as the specific languages in which the seal was earned.

1. Seal of Biliteracy
2. Seal of Biliteracy Awarded

The Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI). The application portal for the first cohort of Maryland Corps/Service Year Option members opened in August of 2023. DSCI is collecting one additional data element:

1. Previous Member

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). MVA data helps bridge gaps between multiple data sources and the MLDS Center has historically relied on MVA data for linking data across data sharing partners. MVA data, specifically data on Commercial Driver's Licenses, will also support outcomes for workforce training programs, particularly those that are approved for Workforce Pell Grants. The MLDS Center must collect additional information from the MVA to effectively understand the outcomes of workforce training programs and Workforce Pell grant recipients. The MLDS Center must add the following relevant data elements:

1. License Class
2. Endorsement
3. Date of Issuance
4. Date of Renewal

Board Action: Mr. Power made a motion to approve the additional data elements from MSDE, DSCI, and MVA, which was seconded by Ms. Blake. The motion was unanimously approved.

Summary of Proposed Removals

Ms. Abend noted that the MLDS Center has identified a few data elements currently being sent by the MVA that are not needed for linking purposes. To limit the amount of MVA data the MLDS Center maintains and ensure it collects only what is necessary, the following data elements are being proposed for removal from the Data Inventory:

1. Mailing Address Street

2. Mailing Address City
3. Mailing Address County
4. Mailing Address State
5. Mailing Address Zipcode
6. License Number

Board Action: Dr. Beddel made a motion to approve the removal of the MVA data elements, which was seconded by Mr. Power. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business

Dr. Ann Kellogg provided an update on MHEC's participation with the U.S. Census Bureau's Post Secondary Education Outcomes Explorer (PSEO) project. MHEC has provided PSEO with a college degree data set including degrees from academic years 2014 to 2025. Census links the college graduate records with workforce outcome information nationally. Maryland data should be available on the PSEO Explorer in June 2026. Mr. Power expressed his thanks and appreciation for Dr. Kellogg's work to ensure that Maryland is participating with PSEO.

Project Applications and Updates

Dr. Henneberger informed the Board that the following two projects have been approved by the Executive Director in consultation with the Research and Policy Advisory Board.

1. ERA 130 - Sequences to Success in Maryland - Dr. Brit Henderson, MDRC. The project will explore: What are the most common school-to-work pipelines taken by young adults in Maryland?; What are the labor market outcomes, including median earnings and percentage employed in MD lighthouse industries?; To what extent is the timing and/or sequencing of postsecondary education associated with different labor market outcomes? How do pipeline patterns vary across key subgroups of students defined by demographic characteristics, including foster and vulnerable youth? How do the labor market outcomes associated with each of the identified pipelines vary across key subgroups of students? Mr. Goldstein noted that Dr. Henderson and her research findings will support work on the development of a new application to provide information to students, parents and school counselors about postsecondary pathways.
2. ERA 135 - Evaluating *Expanding SUCCESS* in Maryland Community Colleges - Dr. Emily Finchum-Mason, MHEC. This project will investigate to what extent does workforce participation for *Expanding SUCCESS* participants change after participation in the program; and what is the impact of the *Expanding SUCCESS* program on long-term student outcomes, including time to employment and post-graduation wages.
3. ERA 138 - Early Childhood Data Indicators for Maryland Counties - Dr. Jane Lincove, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. This project will analyze: Who has access to public school pre-k seats in Maryland?; What are key disparities in access by county and student demographics?; How does kindergarten readiness vary across counties and subgroups in Maryland?; How does kindergarten readiness vary for public school pre-k students, compared to other parent-reported early childhood education (ECE) and childcare settings?; and 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? The Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB) did not make a recommendation

on this proposal due to outstanding concerns raised by MSDE. Specifically, MSDE was concerned about bias in the KRA and the need for collaboration with the Division of Early Childhood. Dr. Lincove was receptive to those comments, agreeing to address KRA bias in her research design and collaborate with the Division.

Because ERA 138 was not acted on by the RPB, Mr. Goldstein requested that the Board vote to approve this project. Dr. Duque, MSDE Research Director, indicated that MSDE's concerns have been addressed.

Board Action: Dr. Lynch made a motion to approve Dr. Lincove's research project, which was seconded by Dr. Rai. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

There was no new business.

Closing

Ms. Wu thanked everyone for their hard work and noted that the next meeting will be in June.

Board Action: Ms. Lynch made a motion to end the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Irvine. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Goldstein
Executive Director

Approved: [pending]