



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

Address 550 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone 410-706-2085
Email mlds.center@maryland.gov
Website mldscenter.maryland.gov

Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center

Disclosure Review Advisory Board

Purpose

The Disclosure Review Advisory Board (DRAB) is established to ensure ongoing input and participation from MLDS Center's key stakeholders and to assist the Governing Board with oversight of Center operations. As described in detail below, the DRAB will provide input and consultation on the MLDS Center's suppression policy and procedures, the implementation of the policy and procedures, and disclosure risks.

1. Support Development of Suppression Policy and Procedures - DRAB will assist the Center in its development and annual review of the Suppression Policy and Procedures. DRAB will review documented MLDS Center exceptions and consider any new proposed exceptions. DRAB will also evaluate the policy and procedures in the context of relevant State and federal laws and regulations.
2. Evaluate Disclosure Risk, Usefulness, and Limitations -
 - a. The MLDS Center produces multiple types of reports, research, and other projects that must undergo a suppression review with a baseline approach to suppress any value less than 10. Prior to the release of reports, research, and other projects that contain descriptive statistics, MLDS Center may request DRAB consider disclosure avoidance methodologies, their impact on disclosure and re-identification risk, and their impact on public confidence.
 - b. DRAB will review the results of the suppression requirements and disclosure avoidance techniques and review the usefulness of the reported data. Members will consider any possible limitations with the release of the suppressed data in reports, research, and other projects, including potential misinterpretations, false or misleading conclusions, etc.
3. Review Best Practices - DRAB will evaluate current suppression best practices used by state, federal, and other organizations for possible adoption in the MLDS Center's Suppression Policy and Procedures.



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Membership

Standing members of the Disclosure Review Advisory Board will consist of:

1. Representatives of the MLDS Governing Board members;
2. MLDS Center Branch Directors;
3. A data expert that regularly attends the MLDS Center Data Governance Advisory Board;
4. A data policy expert that regularly attends the MLDS Center Research and Policy Advisory Board;
5. A data expert in research analyses that regularly attends the MLDS Center Research and Policy Advisory Board;
6. A representative from the Maryland Department of Legislative Services; and
7. Other key stakeholders identified by the Executive Director.

Standing members act as representatives of their organizations. Standing members are expected to attend all DRAB meetings or notify the Executive Director of the individual that will be representing the organization in their absence. Standing members are responsible for representing the position of their organizations and relaying the content of the meeting to appropriate members of their organizations.

Additionally, the Disclosure Review Advisory Board may include ad hoc members such as:

1. Experts in disclosure avoidance practices; and
2. Subject matter experts and practitioners identified by the Executive Director.

Ad hoc members will be invited to participate when their expertise can provide insight on disclosure avoidance techniques and topics.

All members will obtain “View Only Access” and comply with requirements described in the [Staff Authorization and Access Procedures](#).

Meetings

The Disclosure Review Advisory Board will meet on the fourth or fifth Friday of each month unless otherwise noted by the Executive Director or DRAB Chair. Additional meetings may be held if necessary. The MLDS Center Data Management Coordinator will serve as the facilitator for the meetings. The Advisory Board will follow a predefined agenda to conduct the meetings. Meetings may be either in person, or via conference call or Webinar coordinated by MLDS Center staff. A meeting invitation and meeting materials will be distributed to standing members of DRAB and other invited attendees one week in advance of each meeting. Meetings will not be electronically recorded.

Approved – March 27, 2026