

Monthly Report for May 2014

Submitted June 6, 2014

General

Dual Enrollment Data Collection

There have been several meetings between MLDS Center and MSDE staff to discuss collection of dual enrollment data to identify gaps in information and how best to address those gaps. Currently, the data that is being collected only indicates whether a student is enrolled in both high school and college. What is not known is whether the student is dually enrolled, meaning that the student is getting both high school and college credit for the course in which he or she is enrolled, or concurrently enrolled, meaning the student is enrolled in high school and college at the same time, but not receiving high school credit of the college courses being taken. Since there are important policy implications between these two types of dual enrollment, it is agreed that MSDE needs to collect the data in a way that will indicate the distinction.

Site Visit by US Department of Education

The US Department of Education and the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant program visited Maryland to review the grant deliverables and to engage in discussions with stakeholder groups. Feedback from the day long visit was excellent and the program officers enjoyed the robust discussions from representatives from MHEC, DLLR, MSDE, MLDS Center, and the Office of the Governor. A demonstration of the USIS system, the meta-data dictionary tool for the master data management system, and CTE dashboards were presented.

Staffing

Two new staff members have been hired and will begin working on June 11th. The positions are the applications manager and network engineer. A new round of advertising and recruitment for the remaining five positions is underway.

State Support Team Meeting on Stakeholder Engagement: Internal and External Communications

The State Support Team (SST) is a group of key state data systems experts whose primary objective is the direct support of all states in their development of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems. Ross Goldstein and Chandra Haislet attended the SST sponsored regional meeting on May 14-15 on internal and external communications with stakeholders, executive leaders, and program staff. The internal communication focused on effective communication strategies between IT staff and program staff to ensure both sides understand one another and can work effectively. The external communication focus was on best practices and examples of how states have branded their SLDS and communicated the expectations, requirements, and accomplishments of the work related to developing and implementing a SLDS.

Maryland Business Roundtable for Education

Ross Goldstein was part of a panel discussion at the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. The MBRT is developing their 2015-2017 Strategic Plan and invited several panels to recommend issues and opportunities for collaboration. Ross provided an update on the MLDS Center and the research agenda and how it specifically addresses workforce issues.

Oracle Training

Staff has procured Oracle training services. An in person class will be held during the week of June 23rd to provide in depth training on the Oracle Business Intelligence tool that will be used by staff and researchers to access, link and compile data for research and reporting purposes. In addition to the onsite training, a self-paced training program was also purchased for up to 20 users.

Policy and Information Services Branch

The Policy and Information Services Branch welcomed aboard a contract employee serving as the WebCenter developer. The developer has been familiarizing herself with system requirements while she waits for background checks and other administrative processes to be completed. Once these procedures have been completed, work will begin on design and construction of the new website.

Finally, the Branch facilitated work with MHEC on issues relating to data inventory and transmission to MLDSC for inclusion in the Master Data Management System.

Systems Management Branch

The implementation of the Master Data Management (MDM) and Operational Data Store (ODS) are now completed in the development environment. The next step is to implement the Data Warehouse which will provide the foundation for the information on the portal. The procurement and receipt of the hardware, software and backup for the test and production environments is expected to be finalized in the next two weeks. The installation and implementation will be coordinated with resources from MSDE, DPSCS and procured vendors with a target date of the end of July.

Staff continues to work with data stewards to test and reconcile data anomalies and to develop the formats for additional data loads for the ODS. The MLDS Center is working to load data starting from 2008 to present and has received UI Wage records during the last month. The meta-data for the MDM and the ODS is now available through an Oracle tool and we have engaged the Research Branch colleagues and started the first of many conversations around how the data is organized and accessible for their research. The ODS is the first opportunity for the MLDS Center staff to interact with the data.

Research Services Branch

The Research Services Branch has continued to provide support and consultation to the Systems Management Branch in getting the MDM fully developed and processing data. The research team is looking forward to the Oracle training in June which will provide the team with the skills to access the growing data system.

The last Research Series of the 2013-2014 academic year was held in May and was a panel on early childcare and education issues. Plans for the first two Research Series next fall have begun. Those first two will include a presentation of an analysis of the educational preparation of potential early childcare and education workforce participants in September, and a panel discussion about online education in October.

Scholars at University of Maryland College Park School of Education will be working in June on literature reviews and syntheses for Center research question reports including: Marvin Titus, Bob Croninger, Gail Sunderman, and Brenda Jones-Hardin.