

Monthly Report for November 2015

Submitted December 4, 2015

Data Quality and Assurance

The staff continue to engage in tasks to ensure the quality and accuracy of the data in the System. After concluding the identity resolution process undertaken over the past few months, staff began analyzing the accuracy of previously loaded data. Data loaded prior to the identity resolution process (detailed in the previous monthly report) needs to be carefully reviewed, because that data may have been:

- Matched inaccurately to an identity in the system;
- Inaccurately loaded as a new identity; or
- Lacking sufficient personally identifiable information to find a reliable match to an identity in the system.

Staff have reviewed previous loads of postsecondary enrollments and degree data and have recommended that the Center reload previously loaded data to ensure the accuracy of the matched identities. Staff also identified certain data elements that did not get loaded because the data structure did not incorporate those elements. Nonetheless, those elements are needed for Center research and analysis and will be included during the re-load. Staff have completed this process for the enrollment data provided by MHEC. Upon receipt of the 2013 degree data, Center staff will begin this process for all years of the degree data provided by MHEC. Though this is a tedious process, it will ensure the quality of the System data, and the reliability of reported data.

Data Loads

Staff has received and are in the process of loading data from each of our partner agencies. Details on data loaded or in the process of being loaded from each of the partner agencies are as follows:

MSDE

- 2016 school organization data including schools that closed or opened in the current school year.
- 2015 End of Year Attendance data containing attendance, enrollment, and graduation information for all students in Maryland public schools during the 2015 school year.
- High School Assessment data for school years 2008 through 2015.
- SAT assessment data for high school students for school years 2008 through 2015.
- High school status and completion information for all Maryland high school students in the 2015 school year.
- Additional enrollments for high school graduates in 2010 and 2011 from National Student Clearinghouse.

MHEC

- MHEC enrollment for 2008 through 2014

- MHEC degrees for 2008 through 2012, and 2014 had been previously provided. MHEC will be providing MHEC degrees for 2013 shortly. Staff is preparing to load or reload all degree data from MHEC.
- Staff have begun plans with MHEC to receive additional MAC2 data such as Course data, end-of-term data, and enrollments for spring and winter semesters.

DLLR

- LACES Adult Correctional data for the 2nd quarter of 2015
- NEDP data for the 2nd quarter of 2015
- Unemployment Insurance Claimants and UI Tax data for the 2nd quarter of 2015
- Quarterly Wage data for the 2nd quarter of 2015
- GED student data for the 2nd quarter of 2015

Dashboards and Website

Four new dashboards were added to the website this month. The dashboards are responsive to Research Agenda Question # 2, *“What percentage of Maryland high school exiters go on to enroll in Maryland postsecondary education?”* Three additional dashboards will be added later this week. The dashboards include:

- Dashboard 1: High School Graduates with Initial Postsecondary Enrollments
- Dashboard 2: High School Graduates with Initial Postsecondary Enrollments by County
- Dashboard 3: High School Graduates with Initial Postsecondary Enrollments by Gender
- Dashboard 4: High School Graduates with Initial Postsecondary Enrollments by Race/Ethnicity (to be posted later this week)
- Dashboard 5: Initial Postsecondary Enrollments – In-state vs. Out-of-State (posted last month)
- Dashboard 6: Initial Postsecondary Enrollments – Type of Institution (to be posted later this week)
- Dashboard 7: Initial Postsecondary Enrollments by Gender
- Dashboard 8: Initial Postsecondary Enrollments by Race/Ethnicity (to be posted later this week)

Work is continuing on other dashboards, including plans to turn the data and analysis compiled for the 2015 Dual Enrollment Report into several dashboards.

DPSCS Shutdown

Staff are working through plans to take 13 of the P20 physical servers, located in the DPSCS data center, out of service, around the end of December of this year. The data and systems on these servers have been audited for their content (data) and services. None of these servers have been used over the past six months and the MLDS Center data has more comprehensive and current data than the data that was found to exist on these servers. As a precaution, staff have taken a data snapshot from the P20 database, which will be temporarily maintained in the unlikely event that there is a need to restore the database. However, staff intend to destroy this backup as soon as practical, since it contains sensitive data. Key staff at MHEC and MSDE have been informed and asked to provide any feedback before staff proceeds.

Finally, the Center has been using the P20 servers at DPSCS as a temporary offsite backup. Those servers with the backup data will remain at DPSCS until the term comprehensive backup plans are implemented.

System Security

Staff continue to work on finalizing the implementation of the Data Security and Safeguarding Plan (DSSP). A copy of the Implementation Manual was forwarded to Board Member Steven Rizzi (who serves on the Board as the member with expertise in large data systems and data security). Mr. Rizzi provided a very detailed review of several sections of the manual. Staff are following up on each comment and recommendation and plans to continue to work through the entire manual with Mr. Rizzi.

Research

The primary focus of the Research Branch has been on the 2015 Dual Enrollment report, which is required to be submitted by December 15th to the Governor and General Assembly. The report will include the number of dual enrolled students using three distinct methods of identification: (1) overlap in enrollment dates in high school and college; (2) MHEC's report of dual enrollment from the colleges; and (3) MSDE's report of high school students enrolled in college courses. Combining all three methods enables the Center to provide more information about the population of students who are dual enrolled across the state. Additionally, the use of the MLDS database enables the report to examine high school correlates of dual enrollment (e.g., demographic characteristics) and college outcomes associated with dual enrollment (e.g., college enrollments). The report will include implications for future data collections and future directions for research that will be possible as more years of longitudinal data are added into the MLDS.

Research Series

The Research Series presentation for November was on the Center's Synthetic Data Project. The project is funded by the 2015 State Longitudinal Data Systems Grants recently announced by the U.S. Department of Education. The presentation described what synthetic data are and the challenges that team will face in the creation of the system. The presentation also identified considerations surrounding the creation of the system that require input from possible end users from the research community.