

Monthly Report for April 2016

Submitted May 6, 2016

Workforce Data Quality Campaign

The Workforce Data Quality Campaign (WDQC) recognized the Center's newest dashboards in a recent article on its [website](#). The article, [Maryland Dashboards Answer Research Questions](#), notes that, "dashboards such as these can help policymakers evaluate education and training programs and create informed policies that promote strong outcomes."

The WDQC is, "a non-profit, non-partisan initiative that advocates for inclusive, aligned and market-relevant data systems used for advancing the nation's skilled workforce and helping U.S. industries compete in a changing economy." WDQC also notes in the article that, "creating dashboards for policymakers is a key element of [its] 13-point state blueprint for an inclusive, aligned, and market relevant data system."

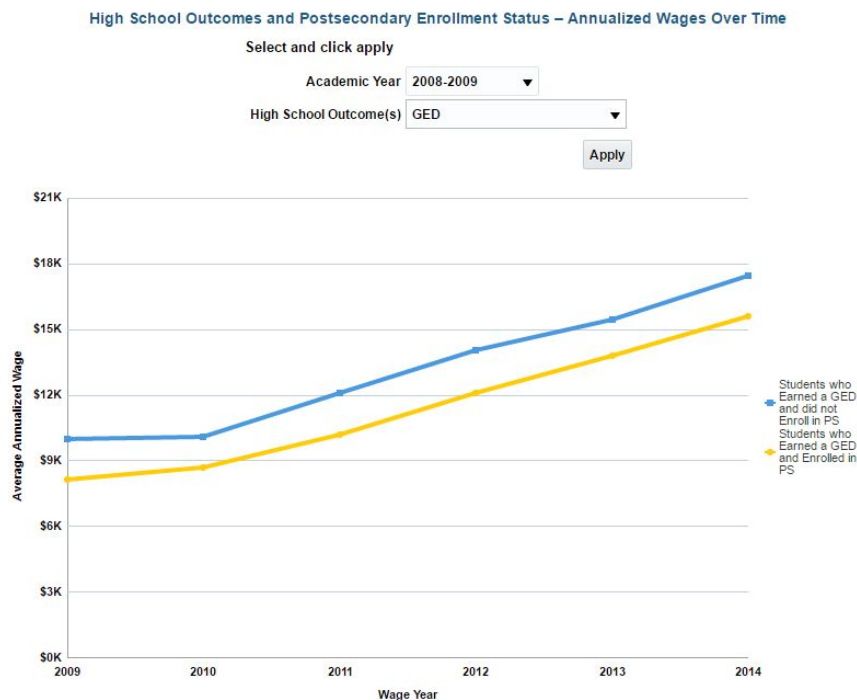
Data Governance Advisory Board

The Data Governance Advisory Board (Data GAB) met after a long hiatus on April 20, 2016. Data GAB members shared details from each partner agency on the collection and validation of social security numbers. This discussion provided greater understanding to Center Staff on the gaps that vary across agencies for this data element.

Data GAB members also discussed the process and implications for de-linking workforce records from a student record after five years from the student's last enrollment in a Maryland academic institution. This issue was presented in month's report and discussed with the Research and Policy Board earlier in the month. Suggestions were made to research the length of time other State Longitudinal Data Systems link workforce and education records.

Dashboards

The Center has published a new series of dashboards: [Wages by High School Outcome and Postsecondary Enrollment Status](#). These dashboards provide information on workforce outcomes for students based on their high school outcome and postsecondary enrollment status in a given academic year. Below is an example of annualized wages for students earning a GED.



		Average Annualized Wage					
High School Outcomes	Postsecondary Enrollment Status	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
GED	Enrolled in postsecondary	\$8,132	\$8,682	\$10,176	\$12,088	\$13,809	\$15,602
	Did not enroll	\$9,994	\$10,080	\$12,079	\$14,052	\$15,461	\$17,434

The MLDS Center recodes values as being within a specified range (or greater than or less than a specified value) rather than as a specific value to ensure small population sizes are not disclosed.

Published by Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center

As of Date: 4/21/2016

The next dashboard is planned for release next week. It will allow users to select one or more counties or the State and then select one or more academic years. The dashboard will then provide the number of high school graduates, the number of those graduates with a postsecondary initial enrollment, and the percentage of the initial enrollees who attend either a Community College, a Maryland Public Institution, a Maryland State-Aided Institution, or an Out-of-State institution for the jurisdictions and year(s) selected. The dashboard will also display the demographic makeup of each of these categories, including gender, race/ethnicity, and whether the student is eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals.

The dashboard will facilitate comparisons over time or between different counties (or counties and the State). For example, a user can select Anne Arundel County and academic years 2010-2011 through 2013-2014 to determine whether there are changes in postsecondary enrollment trends during that period of time. Or, a user could compare Montgomery County and Baltimore County postsecondary enrollments for 2013-2014.

Data Loading

MHEC - The Center received data from MHEC's End of Term System (EOTS) for Winter/Spring 2015. The EOTS data gives a status relating to a student's enrollment as of the end of each college term:

Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring. The Center has also requested EOTS files for 2013 and 2014, which have never been received. The EOTS data did not exist at MHEC prior to 2013.

MSDE – The Center has received and is in the process of loading all Assessment data, which includes SAT, PSAT, ACT and AP (which has been loaded). The HSA and MSA data will be loaded this week.

DLLR – The Center has received and will be loading 2015 – 4th quarter files for LACES, NEDP, UI Claimant, UI Wage, UI Tax, and GED data from DLLR.

MVA – The Center is now receiving and loading daily updates from MVA.

Research

The research team has continued work on research reports responding to research questions about the early childhood and care workforce, the STEM workforce, remedial education and outcomes, and the outcomes of students who do not complete high school. The April Research Series was a presentation by Mathew Uretsky, Center Fellow about postsecondary and workforce outcomes for high school "persisters," students who attend for four or more years but do not earn diplomas, and the May Research Series was a presentation by James Zheng, Center Fellow, and Michael Woolley, Research Team member, about STEM workforce analyses that will be included in the upcoming STEM workforce preparation and retention report. Drs. Henneberger and Stapleton presented on the MLDS at the Institutional Research staff meeting at the University of Maryland College Park and at the Inter-Institutional Committee and Institutional Research meeting for the University System of Maryland.

System Management

1. Firewall - Staff is continuing to work with DoIT and Skyline to implement a new managed firewall solution. The managed firewall will replace the current firewall that MLDS Center currently has and maintains. Work on implementing the new managed firewall should begin later this month.
2. Offsite Backup – Staff has completed the procurement process for Amazon Web Services (AWS) offsite cloud storage backup. Staff also successfully developed a procedure for taking the backup and uploading it to the storage site. Staff continues to pursue discussions with DoIT regarding the State's future plans for enterprise offsite backup capabilities.
3. Independent Security Audit – The requirements for the independent audit that were developed by staff (and provided in last month's report) have been reviewed by DoIT's Chief Information Security Officer and provided to Skyline, the State's contractor providing audit services. A scope of work was developed by the vendor and reviewed and approved by staff. Work is anticipated to begin within the next few weeks.
4. Upcoming Tasks – Staff will be working on resolving the performance issues as a result of the upgrade to OBIEE 12C. OBIEE is the data reporting tool used to develop the website dashboards. The performance issues resulted in an 30 second delay when initially displaying the dashboards. Staff will also be testing the migration from the current Oracle ETL (extract, transform, and load) tool Oracle Warehouse Builder (OWB) to the new ETL tool Oracle Database

Integrator. OWB is being discontinued by Oracle. Finally staff is exploring other data reporting tools to add to or replace OBIEE. One tool under consideration is [Tableau](#).

Goodbye and Thanks

Chuck Shelton, senior system architect, left the MLDS Center two months earlier than originally planned. Despite the early departure, Chuck left us in great shape: we have a well designed and functioning system and a team in place that he helped develop and train to ensure continuity of operations and continuous growth and development. Chuck joined the project at its inception bringing with him decades of experience, including the successful creation of a similar SLDS for the State of Washington. His vision and leadership will have a lasting impact on the system and the Center.