



Monthly Report for September 2016

Submitted September 10, 2016

Meetings

DLLR Office of Adult Education and Literacy Services

On September 28th, Center staff met with the Adult Education and Literacy Services program specialists at DLLR to better understand the programs administered by this office. The Center staff and DLLR staff reviewed the data provided to the Center from the office and discussed the best ways this data should be stored and utilized within the MLDS. Additionally, Center staff discovered some ways the Center can assist DLLR with research and analyses. With over 15 people present, the Center enhanced its connections to DLLR and established meaningful relationships on how each of these agencies can support the other's work.

MSDE Division of Career and College Readiness, Career Technical Education (CTE) Branch

On October 27th, Center staff met with Pat Mikos and Matthew Koerner. Ms. Mikos is the Program Manager for Student and Assessment Services Branch of CTE and Mr. Koerner is the CTE Accountability Coordinator for the same program. CTE has engaged with the MLDS Center to explore how the Center can assist in providing reports for federal reporting requirements. MSDE CTE Office is required to submit two aggregate data files to U.S Department of Education, [EDFacts](#). Both these federal reporting requirements relate to the outcomes of CTE students after they leave high school.

Center Staff are working on duplicating the federal reporting done in 2014 by CTE to ensure this reporting can be done from the MLDS and aligns with reports previously produced by the CTE office. Once the process is established for 2014 reporting, Center staff will work on producing the reports for 2015. To complete the 2015 federal reporting, Mr. Koerner will be designated as Authorized Staff of the Center and complete the analysis using a data set supplied to him, within the System.

Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI), Towson University

On September 30th, Ross Goldstein and Angela Henneberger met with Daraius Irani, Vice President of Innovation and Applied Research and Chief Economist with RESI and Todd Metcalf, Senior Economist with RESI. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about RESI's occupational forecasting and begin preliminary discussions on ways in which the forecasting could be used with longitudinal data to help guide both students and education policy makers.

Dashboards

The MLDS Center published a new series of dashboards, [High School Transitions to Workforce](#), in September. This series of dashboards examines the workforce outcomes of Maryland high school non-completers. Non-completers include students who dropout or students who persist in high school beyond the expected 4 years. High school graduates are included in these dashboards as a point of comparison. None of the students included in these dashboards have enrolled in postsecondary education. These dashboards do not follow the same group of students through high school and beyond. Instead these dashboards analyze [combined groups](#) of students based on the year of high school or the year after high school.

1. [Overview of High School Outcomes](#)

2. [Workforce Participation by High School Outcomes](#)
3. [Median 4-Quarter Wages by High School Outcomes](#)
4. [High School Outcomes by Industry](#)

Research

Reports

The research report on early childhood care workforce has been edited based on comments from the Maryland State Department of Education and has been re-submitted in fulfillment of the SLDS 2012 grant. Two research reports: (1) the college and workforce outcomes of high school persisters; and (2) remedial coursework have been finalized and the research team has worked with the Executive Director and the Assistant Attorney General to finalize the suppression for public release of the reports. The remedial coursework report has been prepared for the October 6 research series presentation.

The research team continues working on data briefs (one pagers) for each of the dashboards currently on the MLDS Center website. The team has also begun creating SAS code that will transfer code from previously published reports (using the old database schema) to the new database schema. This has been completed for the code necessary for the 2016 dual enrollment report, and preliminary analyses for this report have begun.

Research Coordinator

Now that Dr. Henneberger has assumed the duties of Director of Research for the Center, her former position as research coordinator needs to be filled by the School of Social Work. The position has been advertised and applications for a statistician/research analyst have been received. The team is currently in the process of narrowing the applicants for phone interviews prior to selecting finalists for in-person interviews.

Synthetic Data Project

Although preliminary work has been going on for several months, this month the Synthetic Data Project (SDP) research team officially began meeting and working on initial tasks to get the project going. One initial task, evaluating the data distributions for MSDE and MHEC data in the system, has begun and will be ongoing in the upcoming month. Daniel Bonnery has made presentations to the SDP Team and the MLDS Staff about the project plan and structure. A search to fill the position of Project Coordinator is in the later stages with the Search Committee inviting final candidates for full day campus interviews in Baltimore in October.

System Management

Data Loading

Staff completed loading the teacher staff file and the High School Status and Completers (HSSC) file from MSDE. Next, staff will be loading DLLR 2016, Wage Quarter 2 files. Performing Identity Resolution for individuals who have multiple system ID'S for the same identifier (SSN) is in progress and is continual process with every load. Staff is also working on loading National Student Clearinghouse 2016 data and 2016 K12 attendance data.

Other Tasks and Accomplishments

1. Downloaded and implemented McAfee antivirus software licenses from DoIT on all MLDS machines;
2. Created virtual machines for new research staff;
3. Completed patches for Oracle database and activated license keys for Microsoft on all Virtual Machines;

4. Completed migration of firewall management from MSDE to DoIT;
5. Ongoing testing of the new firewall and work to resolve issues;
6. Resolved the cyber security recommendations from the interim audit report, including installing antivirus on all virtual machines, setting password expiration dates on user accounts in the active directory, and establishing software monitoring procedures;
7. Working with DoIT to define backup, retention and encryption policies for MLDS data on the new local backup system (CommVault)
8. Testing the restore functionality of the new system backup;
9. Initiated an effort to develop an internal database data dictionary, which will be available to research staff; and
10. Worked to setup a file server for Center documents and work product.

Top 10 dashboards

Dashboard Name	Hits
Initial Postsecondary Enrollments by Type of Institution	44
Overview of High School Outcomes	44
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments	41
High School Graduates Initial Postsecondary Enrollments By Year	40
Initial Postsecondary Enrollments Type of Institution by Gender	39
Students Who Initially Enrolled in Maryland Community College Wages By Outcome	37
Industry by High School Outcomes	34
Students Who Initially Enrolled in Maryland Community College Outcomes	33
High School Outcomes - Overview	33
Median 4 Quarter Wages by High School Outcomes	30