



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board
FROM: Ross Goldstein
DATE: June 1, 2018
SUBJECT: Research and Output Plan

Purpose

The Center's *Research and Output Plan* for fiscal year 2018-2019 is a list of the priority topics and required reports that will be the focus of the Center's research and reporting output over the next year.

Background

The Center's work is broadly guided by the Research Agenda, which is approved by the Governing Board. The agenda is useful in setting the parameters of the subjects the Center should be working on, but it does not identify the specific priorities or required output that the Center intends to work on over a given period of time. This *Research and Output Plan* fills that gap by identifying the required reports and other research and output priorities that the Center plans to address in the next fiscal year. Realistically, not all of the output priorities will be fully completed in the next fiscal year. Some priority areas will require extended time to complete. Other priority areas may be deferred if critical data requests are received from key stakeholders or other unforeseen priorities arise.

A *Research and Output Plan* was not developed in past years. However, now that the Center is fully staffed and more experienced with the data system and creating output, annual planning is possible and necessary (especially given the increased demands on the Center's time and resources). To develop this plan, staff received input from the Research and Policy Advisory Board, reviewed various state policy and planning documents, and reviewed past data requests and topics of interest to identify research and output priorities.

Action

Review and comment.

I. Output Priorities

A. Reporting Services

Priority 1: Investigate the high school to workforce, college to workforce, and high school to college to workforce pipelines for critical workforce areas in teaching, allied health, and STEM.

Priority 2: Define and standardize key metrics in measuring earnings for high school and college graduates.

Priority 3: MLDS and MHEC will continue to collaborate on completing SOAR statewide reporting requirements as well as developing school-specific reporting requirements.

Priority 4: Explore the number of students who exit Maryland public schools without graduating and earn a GED and their employment outcomes.

B. Research Priorities

Priority 1: Complete and publish in-progress research reports. This includes:

- A study examining the causal effects of dual enrollment program participation on long-term college and workforce outcomes.
- A study examining the causal effects of career and technical education (CTE) participation on long-term college and workforce outcomes.
- A study examining the causal effects of receipt of the Educational Assistance (EA) grant on long-term college and workforce outcomes.
- A study examining the relationship between student and school-level poverty and long-term college and workforce outcomes.
- A study examining the relationship between student and school-level demographic and academic characteristics and need for remedial coursework in community colleges.
- A study examining the causal effect of attending a 4-year college on long-term college and workforce outcomes.

Priority 2: Complete in-depth statistical analyses, able to support causal inferences where appropriate, on the following topics:

- Studies that support causal inferences about the effects of different pathways from high school into college and the workforce, including examination of the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation (research request by MSDE) and additional focus on dual enrollment and early college initiatives.
- Studies that further examine and disentangle the role of student and school-level poverty on long-term college and workforce outcomes.
- Studies that examine the relationship between characteristics of teacher preparation programs and/or individual teachers and long-term college and workforce outcomes.

- Studies that examine the relationship between student characteristics and workforce outcomes in critical workforce areas.
- Studies that explore statistical methods and best practices for incorporating wage data when data are missing not at random (e.g., for federal employees).

Priority 3: Develop technical documentation to guide staff on the use of the System, data, appropriate methods, and best practices.

II. Other Required Projects

1. Produce the Dual Enrollment Report.
2. Produce the Annual Report.
3. Produce a report for the Career Preparation Expansion Act of 2018 (SB 978).
4. Provide analyses to partner agencies and the Department of Legislative Services.
5. Fulfill public information act requests.

III. Updates to Existing Output

1. Update the dashboard series *Maryland High School Graduates Initial College Enrollment* to add additional years of data.
2. Update the dashboard series *Initial Postsecondary Enrollments - In-State vs. Out-of-State Enrollments* to include maps for visual representations of enrollment patterns.
3. The *Maryland Public Schools Pathway* will be updated to expand the timeframe for college enrollment and college graduation and to include wage data.

IV. Project Partnerships

1. Synthetic Data Project (SDP).
2. The PARCC alignment study conducted by the Maryland Assessment Research Center (MARC) at the University of Maryland, College of Education.
3. Support the Computer Science for All Initiative with the [Maryland Center for Computing Education](#) housed at the University System of Maryland.
4. External Research and/or Grant funded projects approved by the MLDS Governing Board.
5. Support MSDE, Division of Career and College Readiness, Career Technology Education Branch in meeting their annual federal reporting requirements.