MLDS CENTER
Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Governing Board
Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2025

The meeting of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center Governing Board was held on September 12, 2025, both in person at the Maryland State Department of Education Board Room, at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building and via teleconference. Ms. Portia Wu, Chair of the Governing Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following Governing Board members were in attendance:

Ms. Portia Wu, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor

Dr. Sanjay Rai, Secretary of Higher Education

Dr. Jennifer Lynch, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Education & Engagement, University System of
    Maryland (Designee for Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor)

Mr. Geoff Sanderson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Accountability, Maryland STate Department
    of Education (Designee for State Superintendent Wright)

Mr. Quintin Mirick, Chief Data Officer, Maryland Department of Human Services (Designee Secretary
    Raphael Lopez)

Mr. Matthew Power, President, Maryland Independent College and University Association

Monica Randall, Deputy Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges
    (Designee for Dr. Phillips, Executive Director)

Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent, Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Ms. Hussainatu Blake, CEO, ED2Tech

Mr. Frederick Taylor, Managing Director, CWR Technologies, LLC

Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, Maryland State Board of Nursing

Dr. Ivory Toldson, School of Education, Department of Psychoeducational Studies, Howard University

Ms. Jamie Shopland, Frederick County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee

The following MLDS Center staff were in attendance:

Mr. Ross Goldstein, Executive Director, MLDS Center

Dr. Angela Henneberger, Director of Research, MLDS Center and Research Assistant Professor,
    University of Maryland, School of Social Work

Dr. Ann Kellogg, Director of Reporting Services, MLDS Center, and MHEC Liaison

Ms. Molly Abend, Data Management Coordinator, MLDS Center, and MSDE Liaison

Mr. Roy Enehiroana, Data Analyst, MLDS Center, and Labor Liaison

Ms. Tejal Cherry, Chief Information Officer, MLDS Center

Ms. Jeaneen Johnson, Assistant Attorney General

Ms. Jamese Dixon-Bobbitt, Executive Associate

Quorum: Ms. Wu noted that there was a quorum present.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Ms. Wu asked for a motion to approve the June Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Rai and was seconded by Mr. Power. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Wu encouraged board members to share developments from their respective roles, especially regarding federal-level data changes, emphasizing the value of collective understanding and information sharing for future considerations, even if not for immediate board action.

Center Output Priorities (2025-2026)

Reporting Services

Dr. Ann Kellogg outlined the Reporting Division's annual output priorities, noting that work has commenced on all projects, including reports for the Departments of Labor and Education, work on the Career Preparation Expansion Act Report, the development of tables to support the work of the Department of Human Services and Juvenile Services, and dual enrollment reporting. Dr. Kellogg also noted that the Center continues to support the ENOUGH Grant Program, which involves producing nine different measurement points for reporting at the state, county, and census tract level.

Next, Dr. Kellogg provided a demonstration of the Maryland College Labor Sector and Wage Explorer (MD-CLaWE). MD-CLaWE is a self-service portal for colleges to access information on college labor market outcomes, including wage patterns based on student characteristics. Dr. Kellogg also highlighted recent enhancements including new filters like "vulnerable youth" and extended wage data for up to 10 years for some cohorts.   Ms. Wu asked whether the product can be used to help students compare career paths or programs. Dr. Kellogg responded that the portal is primarily designed for researchers, but noted that as a next step, there are plans to make the information more accessible. As an example, Dr. Kellogg showed the new Apprenticeship Report, which includes visualizations to help users understand the labor sectors apprenticeships are supporting. Mr. Goldstein noted that the Center is pursuing a grant from the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) to obtain funding to design and implement a portal specifically designed for students making postsecondary education and workforce decisions.

In response to a question from Dr. Bedell, Dr. Kellogg clarified that MD-CLaWE does not provide individual names for recruiters, but does identify colleges producing graduates in specific majors. Dr. Kellogg also clarified that MD-CLaWE currently only focuses on degree completers and does not yet capture workforce sequence completers. A similar product for those individuals is forthcoming.

Research Branch

Dr. Angela Henneberger, Research Branch Director for the MLDS Center, presented the Research Branch priorities for fiscal year 2026, which include conducting in-depth statistical analyses for causal inference and policy information, as well as methodological documentation. Dr. Henneberger also demonstrated the online project tracker dashboard that provides information on all approved research projects, filterable by principal investigator, title, year, and funding source.

Dr. Henneberger discussed a Research Brief that contains findings from research on educational outcomes for students involved with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). The Research Brief is designed to distill complex findings into an understandable format for wider dissemination and use. The research found that justice involved youth were less likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college and more likely to be suspended or expelled. This research was conducted by Dr. Wade Jacobsen and Ms. Erin Tinney (Ph.D. student).

Legislative Session 2025

Mr. Goldstein began by noting that the MLDS Center received a grant from the Coleridge Initiative as part of their Democratizing Our Data Challenge program. The grant proposal was submitted by Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virgiinia. The goal of the project is to better understand K-12, higher education, and workforce pathways across the Capital Region. The Project requires the three jurisdictions to share data for the purpose of linking that data and reporting on outcomes. Work under the project would be done inside the Coleridge Initiative's Administrative Data Research Facility. Currently, the Center is prohibited from disclosing identifiable, individual records. Hence, to participate in this project, we need to change the law to allow an exception for this purpose. Before discussing the legislation, Mr. Goldstein introduced two guests: Dr. Nathan Barrett, Vice President of Product and Development at Coleridge Initiative about Coleridge and the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF); and Ms. Monica Dodge, Executive Director of the Office of Education Through Employment Pathways (Washington D.C.).

Dr. Barrett explained that the Coleridge Initiative's mission is to enable effective use of data for public decision-making by building technologies like the ADRF. The ADRF is a FedRAMP authorized data center that ensures high levels of data security and compliance for handling sensitive data. Coleridge starts with identifying questions of value in partnership with state and federal agencies. They then build technology and data infrastructure to support these questions, facilitate researcher access, and analyze and apply findings, always guided by state partners. He emphasized that Coleridge does not engage in policy change, but facilitates the communication of findings.

Dr. Barrett next discussed the "risk versus utility trade-off" in data sharing, emphasizing the need to access data securely while maximizing utility. The ADRF operationalizes security through "five safes": safe data, safe people, safe project settings, and safe exports, ensuring that data governors maintain control over data access and use. In response to a question from Ms. Wu, Dr. Barrett clarified that no federal government agency has access to the data in the ADRF. In response to a question from Mr. Taylor, Dr. Barrett noted that the ADRF is hosted on AWS.gov and operates by bringing users to a common, secure platform where data is isolated by project workspaces. Dr. Barrett also explained that data is typically hashed to remove PII, ensuring that while data systems can be linked, individual identities remain protected. All exports are reviewed by data stewards to ensure compliance and approved use.

Finally, Dr. Barrett highlighted that states use Coleridge's resources to provide researcher access to integrated data, build capacity through training opportunities, and develop and host tools like the multi-state postsecondary feedback report. Dr. Barrett provided use case examples and noted that the initiatives foster collaboration and help states leverage their data to address operational, policy, and outcomes-oriented questions.

Next, Ms. Dodge, Executive Director of Washington, D.C.'s Office of Education through Employment Pathways, discussed the importance of the proposed grant project. Specifically Ms. Dodge emphasized the economic integration of the DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) region, noting that it is the seventh-largest regional economy globally. She highlighted that approximately 20% of residents commute across state lines for work daily, which necessitates regional data collaboration. Addressing data gaps in regional outcomes, Ms. Dodge explained that existing data systems like MLDS provide valuable

outcomes but are limited to within-state data, missing the full regional picture due to significant cross-state commuting. The new project aims to fill these long-standing gaps, providing a deeper understanding of residents' experiences and pathways across state lines. This regional perspective is especially critical given changes in the economy and constrained resources.

Mr. Goldstein provided an overview of the proposed legislation. First, the bill removes the authorization for the Governing Board to allow the Center to send data to Census Bureau. This provision is no longer needed since the Higher Education Commission is providing data to the Census Bureau (for participation with the PSEO project). Next, the bill defines the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF) as the FedRAMP certified, secure cloud-based platform established by the Coleridge Initiative. The bill also defines FedRAMP as the standardized approach to security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring for cloud services. The bill authorizes the Governing Board to allow the Center to provide individual-level student and workforce data, which may include personally identifiable information, to the ADRF to enable multistate research and reporting on student outcomes. Before granting authorization, and annually thereafter, the Governing Board is required to ensure that the following conditions are met:

1. Security of the ADRF meets or exceeds the data security implemented by MLDSC - including confirming that ADRF remains a FedRAMP authorized and certified platform;
2. The use of PII is limited to only those data elements that are necessary for data matching and where possible privacy enhancing techniques, such as data hashing are used;
3. Only de-identified data are used for analytic purposes;
4. Only aggregate data are released;
5. Small cell sizes are suppressed; and
6. A data sharing agreement must be in place between the MLDS Center and Colerige stating compliance with state and federal laws relating to data privacy.

Mr. Goldstein stated that these conditions mirror the requirements that the MLDS Center follows. The bill also requires the Governing Board to approve all data elements, approve all data sets to be provided, and approve the use of data in research and reporting projects.

Finally, noting that the proposed legislation contains a lot of detail, Mr. Goldstein stated his belief that it was important for the General Assembly, which is unfamiliar with Coleridge, to have assurances that the MLDS Center and Governing Board will maintain a level control over the data and its security.

Mr. Power stated that the optics of going in and undoing a bill from two years ago while trying to expand data sharing in a similar way is not going to help this bill. Since the Census Bureau legislation was only enabling legislation, why is it critical to remove the provision? Mr. Goldstein responded that he wanted to avoid the perception that MLDS data are being sent to multiple places. Ms. Wu suggested that there is a high level of sensitivity about what is being shared with federal agencies and wants to do more due diligence about this issue. Ms. Wu then asked for a motion to move ahead with the proposed legislation, with the provision removing the Board's authority to permit data sharing with the Census Bureau. Mr. Power made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Rai.

Ms. Shopland asked whether there are other entities like Coleridge that provide similar services and is there a need for the language to be so specific. She also questioned whether FedRAMP needed to be

defined. Mr. Goldstein noted that RPB discussed making the legislation less specific and instead establishing parameters for when data sharing is permissible. Mr. Goldstein stated that naming the specific entity was more transparent since that is how we intend to proceed with the grant. If a better solution comes along, the Center can go back to the General Assembly for their review and approval of the new solution. Ms. Lynch noted her preference for being specific and not opening up data sharing too too broadly. She also supports the detailed parameters and conditions. Mr. Taylor stated that the FedRAMP designation is important since people are familiar with it and understand its high level of security.

Mr. Power supports opening the door wider, as long as the Board has the final say. The Board is the expert on this issue of the management of its data. Ms. Wu noted that the Department of Labor team strongly endorses the Coleridge multi-state project, but agrees that there is a need for flexibility.

In response to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Goldstein and Dr. Kellogg explained that Coleridge is the best option - they are well funded, organized and manage data in a manner consistent with the MLDS Center's standards. Mr. Power and Ms. Wu both agreed that moving forward with Coleridge was the right direction, but wanted to explore ways to make the legislation broader, as long as the Board has ultimate authority to determine whether to share data. Mr. Goldstein suggested changing the legislation to: remove direct references to Coleridge and the ADRF; state that the Board has the authority to share data with a "third party" for the purpose of muti-state data sharing; and maintain the same conditions for permissible data sharing. Ms. Shopland noted her support for that reformulation of the legislation.

Board Action: Mr. Power made a motion to amend his prior motion to approve the proposed legislation. The revised motion is to approve the legislation, but remove the direct references to the Coleridge Initiative. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shopland and unanimously approved.

Data Inventory
Ms. Abend stated that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has a new data collection, the Workforce Training Registration System (WTRS), designed to capture course registration information for workforce training courses. Currently, WTRS collects courses with Intent Codes A (Job Preparatory), B (Licensure or Certification), and C (Job SKill Enhancement). This new collection complements another MHEC collection, the Workforce Training Completer System (WTCS), which captures the completion of workforce training sequences. Students who register for courses captured in WTRS may later appear in WTCS if they complete a full sequence. In response to a question from Ms. Wu about whether these data elements will be responsive to new workforce Pell requirements, Dr. Kellogg responded that MHEC plans to undertake data collection on how workforce programs are financed (including Pell).

The following data elements were proposed for addition in the MLDS Data Inventory:

1. Collection Term	20. Asian
2. Collection Year	21. American Indian/Alaskan Native
3. OPEID (FICE+2)	22. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
4. Identification Number (SSN)	23. Course Type
5. Identification Number (Type)	24. Course Section Type
6. Local Campus Student ID	25. Contract Training
7. Last Name	26. Course Number
8. First Name	27. Section Number

9. Middle Name
10. Generational Suffix
11. Gender
12. Birthdate
13. Current Zip Code
14. County
15. Residency
16. Citizenship Indicator
17. Hispanic/Latino
18. White
19. Black/African American

28. Course Session
29. Course Section Start Date
30. Course Section End Date
31. Student Outcome
32. Course Section Status
33. Course Intent
34. Course Title
35. Course Hours
36. Hours Type
37. Subject Area
38. Course or Sequence Type

Board Action: Dr. Rai made a motion to approve the MHCE data elements, which was seconded by Mr. Power. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Ms. Abend noted that new data elements were added to MSDE's Staff Data Collection for the 2024-2025 school year in response to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. These include three data elements related to staff with an active National Board Certificate and one element to capture which level/tier of the Career Ladder the staff member is on. The following data elements are proposed for addition in the MLDS Data Inventory:

1. National Board Certificate Valid Begin Date
2. National Board Certificate Valid End Date
3. National Board Certification ID Number
4. Career Ladder

Board Action: Dr. Bedell made a motion to approve the MSDE data elements, which was seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved.

Project Applications and Updates

Dr. Henneberger informed the Board that the following three projects have been approved by the Executive Director in consultation with the Research and Policy Advisory Board.

1. ERA #95 - Dr. Jose Ortiz - An Examination of Special Education Receipt for Emergent Multilingual Learners in Maryland. The research will address two questions: (a) To what degree are multilingual learners over or underrepresented in special education in Maryland schools relative to their monolingual peers? (b) To what degree does interaction with the child welfare system predict special education service receipt for multilingual learners relative to their monolingual peers.

2. ERA #115 - Mr. John Green - Labor Market Outcomes from Workforce Training Programs. The research will address three research questions: (a) How do the labor market outcomes of noncredit workforce training vary across income levels and demographic groups? (b) How can noncredit workforce training programs improve the labor market outcomes of individuals who have had interactions with the Juvenile Justice system or removals by Child Protective Services? (c) What is the causal impact of noncredit workforce training programs on the earnings and employment of workers born in 2002 or after and displaced in the COVID-19 recession?

3. ERA #111 - Mr. Max Antheneli - How Courses Matter: Leveraging Rich Course Data and Machine Learning to Support Women and Historically Minoritized Students in the STEM Career Pathway. The research will address two primary research questions: (a) What are common patterns in students' grades 6-12 (middle school through high school) course selection sequences?

(b) What, if any, are the causal effects of trajectory-based individualized treatment on women and historically minoritized students on progressing through the STEM pathway?

Annual Report Recommendations

Mr. Goldstein began by noting that state law requires the Governing Board to submit a report each year that includes the progress and activities of the Center, a list of data added and removed, and any recommendations by the Governing Board. The report, including any recommendations, will be finalized at the December meeting.   Mr. Goldstein also noted that the meeting materials include a list of all prior year recommendations.   In response to a question from Ms. Shopland about the impact of the recommendations, Mr. Goldstein noted they generally just indicate the Board's interest or support for an issue, but do not necessarily result in specific actions or additional resources. Ms. Shopland expressed interest in working on a statement about monitoring data IDEA collection activities at the federal level.

Old Business

Data Security and Safeguarding Plan

Mr. Goldstein stated that the Data Security and Safeguarding Plan (DSSP) has been completed internally. Originally, the plan was to bring the DSSP to the Governing Board at this meeting to review and approve. However, Mr. Goldstein said that staff will first review the DSSP with the Governing Board's Cybersecurity Subcommittee and then come to the full Board in December for review and final approval.

New Business

Mr. Goldstein noted that *Managing for Results* is a strategic planning and performance measurement tool utilized by the Department of Budget and Management during the budget process. The idea is to ensure that state resources achieve measurable results, accountability, efficiency and continuous improvement. Data is collected by fiscal year and the data collection is due annually in the beginning of September. Mr. Goldstein stated that it provides a good indication of the accomplishments and areas for improvement. Next Mr. Goldstein walked through the performance measures and results.

1. Number of Audits - The Center did not do an independent audit in the last two years, instead focusing on other security related priorities, such as a comprehensive Security Assessment with the Department of Information Technology.
2. Percentage of Corrective Actions Taken - 100% - The Center receives monthly reports from various system monitoring tools (like Tenable and Crowdstrike) and investigates and resolves all reported vulnerabilities.
3. New Dashboards - increased from 134 to 186. This measure includes both new and refreshed dashboards.
4. Page views - increased from 80,000 to 311,000. This big increase points to a lot of progress in attracting public interest and use of the MLDS.
5. Seminars -- increased from 57 to 64.
6. Data Requests - decreased from 35 to 27. The downward trend over the past years is likely due to two things: (a) more online content and (b) a screening tool that helps users determine whether the MLDS is the right resource for their data request.
7. Percent of data requests requests filled in 30 days - 92%
8. Number of new reports generated annually - Increased from 16 to 46.
9. Number of times data are cited - increased from 90 to 196. The increase is due to participation with ERIC (Education Resources Information Center). This online digital library (created by the U.S. Department of Education) provides a comprehensive, searchable, database of education research. It is used by educators, researchers, and the general public to locate education research

journal articles, books, and other literature from multiple sources. In October 2024, the MDLS Center entered into an agreement with ERIC to permit them to index and provide access to MLDS Center content. This arrangement provides greater access and exposure to the work of the MLDS Center and explains the increase in citations (both due to exposure and ERIC provides metrics of access and use).

10. Number of written responses to formal requests from state policy makers - increased to 183 due to all of the reporting done for the ENOUGH Grant Program.
11. Number of reports published in scholarly journals decreased to two.
12. External Funding applied for or supported was 11 with a combined value of $4.1 million. Two awards were received with a combined value of $750,000.
13. Finally the number of external researchers provided access to the system decreased to 20.

Closing

Ms. Wu raised a question about leveraging AI tools and partnerships with academic institutions or AI companies to speed up visualization production, given staff limitations. Mr. Goldstein acknowledged the potential but highlighted challenges, including Department of Information Technology parameters on AI use and strict limitations on sharing individual-level data, as AI typically requires access to unit record data. Dr. Kellogg mentioned that aggregated data tables, such as the high school to college dashboard series, offer opportunities for AI use once the data is digested and out of the system.

Ms. Wu noted that the next meeting will be held on December 12, 2025.

Board Action: Ms. Shopland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Rai. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Goldstein
Executive Director

Approved: December 12, 2025