



Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center Governing Board Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2025

The meeting of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center Governing Board was held on June 13, 2025, 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. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission (Designee for Secretary Rai)
Dr. Jennifer Lynch, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Education & Engagement, University System of Maryland (Designee for Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor)
Ms. Kelly Meadows, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Educator Effectiveness, Maryland State Department of Education (Designee for State Superintendent Wright)
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Colleges
Dr. Cheryl Rollins, Director, Institutional Research, Morgan State University (Designee for President Wilson)
Ms. Hussainatu Blake, CEO, ED2Tech
Ms. Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director, State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

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

Quorum: Ms. Wu noted that there was not a quorum present. Staff began presenting items that do not require Board action.

Notice: Mr. Goldstein informed the Board that an automated (maybe AI) transcription service is being used to take meeting notes. There were no objections to the use of this service.

Center Output Priorities (2025-2026)

Reporting Services

Dr. Ann Kellogg presented the proposed Reporting Services priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Dr. Kellogg noted that most of the work is to support required content, such as mandatory reports, refreshing dashboards, and data to support state and federal reporting. Some additional work will involve supporting the Governor’s Workforce Development Board’s CTE Committee; DJS reporting needs, and correctional education outcomes reporting. The team is also working to provide data tables to support the ENOUGH Grant program.

Next, Dr. Kellogg noted that the team will not spend time revising the high school to college dashboard series. Instead, the team will work on creating more interactive comprehensive dashboards (like MD CLaWE¹) that can be customized by users to address common data requests. The goal is to produce one on educator preparation programs and one to assist community colleges meet their Performance Accountability Reporting requirements.

Research Branch

Dr. Henneberger presented the proposed Research Branch priorities. There are two overarching priorities, which haven’t changed: (1) in-depth statistical analysis to support causal inference and inform policy; and (2) methodological documentation. Under the first priority, a topic has been added to study outcomes for students in special populations (such as special education and multilingual learners). This study is possible due to new data being collected from early intervention and special services at MSDE. Under the second priority, there is a new priority to do additional work on policy “shocks” to determine the change necessary to impact policy.

Declaration of Quorum and Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wu noted that a quorum was present and asked for a motion to approve the March Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Phillips and was seconded by Ms. Kendall-Ellis. The motion was unanimously approved.

Legislative Session 2025

Mr. Goldstein noted that it was an uneventful legislative session for the MLDS Center. Mr. Goldstein reviewed the following four bills, which were of interest to the Center:

1. SB 713 / HB 611 - Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Informed Enrollment Act) - This bill did not pass.
2. HB 298: Maryland Higher Education Commission - Demographic Data Collection - Parental Status - Did not pass
3. SB 9 / HB 479 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Academic Program Approval - Revisions - This bill passed.
4. SB 789 / HB 725 - Institutions of Higher Education - Dually Enrolled Students - Alterations - This bill did not pass. This bill would have broadened the definition of dually enrolled students to include nonpublic and home schooled students.

¹ Dr. Kellogg explained that MD CLaWE (Maryland College Labor Sector and Wage Explorer) is a self service portal that allows users to generate reports on workforce participation and wages for Maryland college graduates.

Ms. Wu noted that the process to develop and propose legislation starts very early. Mr. Goldstein responded that this year the Center might seek to pursue new legislative initiatives. Center staff will work with the Research and Policy Advisory Board and will be prepared to provide any legislative proposals with the Board in September.

Data Inventory

Department of Service and Civic Innovation

Ms. Abend began by noting that the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) is a new agency implementing two state funded service streams: Maryland Corps and the Service Year Option. The first cohort of Maryland Corps/Service Year Option members started in August of 2023. The identity-related data elements were approved in June 2024. The following content-related elements (including service related data and credential related data) are proposed for addition in the MLDS Data Inventory are below.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Member ID | 10. Pathway |
| 2. Member Program Status | 11. Operating Partner |
| 3. Host Site Partner | 12. Class Number |
| 4. Organization Type | 13. Program Class Start Date |
| 5. Worksite ID | 14. Program Class End Date |
| 6. Worksite Jurisdiction | 15. Separation Reason |
| 7. Worksite Zip Code | 16. Social Security Number |
| 8. Related Technical Instructions Hours | 17. Credential ID |
| 9. Volunteer Hours | 18. Credential Name |

Board Action: Dr. Phillips made a motion to approve the DSCI data elements, which was seconded by Ms. Kendall-Ellis. The motion was unanimously approved.

Juvenile Delinquency Data from DJS

Next, Ms. Abend began by explaining that in the most recent data submission and loading process, the MLDS Center observed a small percentage of changes in the Alleged Offense Category and Adjudicated Offense Category. DJS explained that the changes are due to periodic legislative updates that may result in Offense Categories being reclassified. For example, an Offense Code categorized as a felony in one year may be reclassified as a misdemeanor the following year.

The MLDS Center is collaborating with DJS to determine the best approach for receiving and documenting these changes moving forward. The MLDS Center is proposing to capture additional data elements, specifically Alleged Offense Code and Adjudicated Offense Code which were not previously approved by the Governing Board. By including these codes, the MLDS Center will be able to identify Offense Categories using current or contemporaneous alignments. Staff is continuing to work on the parameters on how the data elements will be incorporated. The four data elements proposed for inclusion in the Data Inventory are listed below.

1. Alleged Offense Code
2. Adjudicated Offense Code
3. Offense Key
4. Complaint Key

In response to a question by Dr. Phillips, Ms. Abend stated that the Offense Codes were not added with the original set of DJS data elements due to concerns by MSDE and others that the Offense Codes were not necessary and were inappropriately specific about the nature of the offense. Dr. Kellogg noted that

while the Center is bringing these data elements, how the data elements will be used is still being determined.

Board Action: Ms. Kendall-Ellis made a motion to approve the DJS data elements, which was seconded by Dr. Phillips. The motion was unanimously approved.

Data Collection Calendars

Ms. Abend noted that the MLDS Center receives data submissions from each of its data sharing partners throughout the academic year. The Data Collection Calendars provide a comprehensive timeline of the files submitted to the MLDS Center by data sharing partners and an accountability process if files are not received within the approved timelines. Ms. Abend noted the following updates to the Data Collection Calendars:

1. The Early Intervention and Special Education Services data collection from the Maryland State Department of Education is now added to the calendar.
2. The Correctional Education and WIOA Title I and III data collections are now added to the Maryland Department of Labor calendar.
3. Maryland Department of Labor Student and Workforce data collections have been separated into distinct collections.

Next, Ms. Abend noted that the Center is in the process of developing a new format to capture the Data Collection Calendars. The main reason for this change is that the current PDF version is static and makes it difficult to view when data collections are received throughout the year. By transitioning to a PowerBI format, users will be better able to have a clearer understanding of the calendar and have the ability to sort all data collections by date, rather than by data sharing partner only.

This year we will continue to provide the Data Collection Calendar in the PDF format, but will provide progress updates through the next year. Next year's 2026-2027 Data Collection Calendar will be in the new format and we will share major updates to the calendar as well as any enhancements made to the PowerBI display.

Board Action: Dr. Phillips made a motion to approve the Data Collection Calendars, which was seconded by Ms. Wu. The motion was unanimously approved.

FY 26 Budget

Mr. Goldstein began by noting that the Governing Board is responsible for approving the Center's annual budget. The budget development process starts over a year prior to the start of the fiscal year. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) develops budget instructions and a maximum general fund agency request amount. The agencies compile and submit the proposed budget to DBM. DBM reviews the budget and makes any necessary cuts or adjustments. Once the Governor's budget is finalized, it is submitted to the General Assembly. The amounts in the Governor's budget may be altered by legislative action. The MLDS Center's budget was not changed by the General Assembly.

The MLDS Center's FY26 General Fund Budget Allocation this year is \$3.4 million. This represents an increase of approximately \$375,000 from last year. The change is due to an overall increase in salaries (\$282,508) and contractual services (\$107,302). The breakdown of proposed spending is as follows:

1. As in past years, the majority of funds (80%) are used for staff salaries;
2. The remaining funds are allocated to:
 - a. The Research Branch (11%),

- b. IT consulting (5%),
- c. Support for IT systems (4%); and
- d. Office needs (0.5%).

Next Mr. Goldstein noted that the Center's annual budget continues to increase year-over-year. This is the first year with a significant increase in funding for contractual services (Object 08). This increase will allow the Center to continue to fully fund the Research Branch (at \$380,000). It will also allow the Center to contract for needed IT support services and fully fund all of the system software and security needs. In the past three years, the Center has relied on funds from the WDQI grant. That grant ends in FY 25, so no funds will be available in FY 26.

Mr. Goldstein provided a breakdown of the contractual services. Given the slight increase in available funding, the Center is dedicating \$20,000 for IT Security related costs. This will be used for auditing, updating security documentation, and other activities to continuously strengthen the Center's security profile.

Mr. Goldstein also noted that the Center receives a limited amount of Special Funds and Reimbursable Funds.

1. Special Funds are funds the agency collects from reimbursements from researchers. The reimbursement covers the costs incurred by the Center to support the Researcher's project. The budgeted amount is \$30,000, but it is contingent on the projects and their ability to reimburse the Center.
2. Reimbursable Fund - the Center is a subawardee of Dr. Henneberger's Department of Education IES Grant. Research on PBIS Random Control Trial. The budgeted amount is approximately \$36,000.

Finally, Mr. Goldstein presented a list of planned software purchases and expected costs.

Board Action: Ms. Wu made a motion to approve the budget plan, which was seconded by Dr. Dow. The motion was unanimously approved.

Project Applications and Updates

Dr. Henneberger informed the Board that the following projects have been approved by the Executive Director:

1. ERA #102 - Dr. Taylor Delaney - Credit Attainment and the College Pipeline;
2. ERA #108 - Dr. David Blazar - Understanding Student Absences and Long-Term Outcomes Pre- and Post-COVID 19;
3. ERA #112 - Mr. Cameron Conrad - Teachers as Role Models: Impacts on College and Career Outcomes;
4. ERA # 113 - Dr. Alexandra Shelton - Characteristics Associated with Postsecondary Outcomes Among Multilingual Learners; and
5. ERA # 117 - Dr. David Blazar - Causal Evidence on Teacher Recruitment: Data to Inform the Effects and Continued Rollout of the Maryland Blueprint.

Next Dr. Henneberger provided updates on two ongoing federally funded research projects

1. ERA #34 - Longterm Effects of Multi-Tiered PBIS - This project leverages MLDS data to identify students who participated in an initial randomized controlled trial (RCT) of multi-tiered PBIS and link to secondary school, postsecondary, labor, and juvenile justice outcomes up to 15 years later to examine long term outcomes, generalized outcomes (e.g., relevant for scale up), and cost benefit. Over the past year the team has received data from the initial efficacy trial that were

transferred to the MLDS Center. The data were loaded and linked, then deidentified by the MLDS Center and provided to the research team. 99% of students in the initial RCT were found in the MLDS. The team completed initial research analyses examining suspensions, test scores, arrests, and high school graduation. Findings have been presented in multiple forums, including at national conferences (i.e., American Educational Research Association; Society for Prevention Research).

2. ERA # 62 - Dr. Jane Lincove - Using Maryland's SLDS to Strengthen and Diversify the Teacher Workforce - The project has two primary research questions: (1) What are the incentives, pathways, and obstacles for Maryland high school graduates to enter the teacher workforce? (2) What were the pathways into teaching of current teachers in Maryland public schools and which of these pathways most often produce teachers who persist in long-term employment and positively impact student performance? The project team is currently completing Year 1. During Year 1, the team reviewed analysis plan with critical stakeholders; submitted IRB application at UMBC; scheduled an in-person convening for October 2025; began analyses for research question 1 looking at TAM and AAT participation and access; disaggregated analysis by demographics and region; started the process of adding Ed Rising data to the MLDS; hired two postdoctoral fellows to continue with research analyses; and disseminated results in a number of forums, including local, state, and national forums.

Old Business

Research Agenda Review Process

Dr. Kellogg began by providing an overview of the Research Agenda, which was updated last year. Dr. Kellogg also noted that the revised agenda includes a provision for an annual review of the Agenda. When staff started the review, we realized we needed to establish a review process - what steps will be taken and how will we decide if changes are needed. To address these questions, staff developed a review process, which was sent to the Board prior to this meeting.

Dr. Kellogg walked the board through the review process, which was developed with input from the Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB). First, it was determined that the review process should only be required every five years; unless otherwise directed by the Governing Board. Second, the process establishes four categories of guiding questions. Those categories include:

1. Organizational changes that may impact the work of the Center;
2. Change in data collections;
3. A review of the annual research and reporting priorities to determine whether the categories align with the work that we are doing, whether there are unused categories, or whether certain work cannot be done due to limitations in the Agenda; and
4. Review of the State's priorities as determined by law, agency partners, or emerging issues.

Dr. Philip asked whether there were any restrictions in the agenda to prohibit work that is punitive. Dr. Kellogg noted that the Agenda requires a focus on cross-sector analyses that provide a benefit to the State of Maryland. Mr. Goldstein agreed, noting that a project would not be approved by our stakeholders during the project review process if it was determined to be punitive. Mr. Goldstein also noted that the Board could amend the Research Agenda to specifically address this issue.

Data Security and Safeguarding Plan

Mr. Goldstein informed the Board that a contractor had been selected to work on revising the Center's *Data Security and Safeguarding Plan*. The contractor has been onboarded and is working on the project. Despite the delays, we are hopeful that the project will be completed by the end of the month. Finally, Mr. Goldstein noted that once the re-write is completed, staff will review the document internally, consult

with the Board's Cybersecurity Subcommittee, and then bring it to the Governing Board for final approval.

New Business

No new business

Closing

Mr. Goldstein noted that this is the last meeting for Mr. Jason Dykstra, Dr. Susan Sterret, Ms. Launie Kendall-Ellis; and Mr. Rudy Anthony. Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Wu both thanked the members for the service, time, and the thoughtfulness that they put into serving on the Board.

Mr. Goldstein then provided the names of the new Board members whose terms will begin on July 1st: Dr. Ivory Toldson, Dr. Mark Bedell, Ms. Rhonda Scott, Mr. Frederick Taylor, and Ms. Jamie Shopland.

The next meeting will be on September 12, 2025. Ms. Wu asked staff to plan for a hybrid meeting so that members have the opportunity to meet in-person.

Board Action: Dr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Kendall-Ellis. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Goldstein
Executive Director

Approved: September 12, 2025