



Notes

Mar 5, 2026

MLDS Center Research and Policy Advisory Board

Invited [Al Dorsett](#) sarah.beardsley1@maryland.gov [Ann Kellogg](#) [Shane Hall](#) [Ebony Terrell Shockley](#) [Ross Goldstein](#) [George Rich](#) [Kate Bryan](#) [Michael Siers](#) [Tejal Cherry](#) [John Irvine](#) [Christopher Alphonse Cooks](#) [Alex Handler](#) Frimpomaa.Ampaw@morgan.edu [Perketer Tucker](#) [Sharmin Hossain](#) [Jeaneen Johnson](#) [Douglas Weimer](#) [Erin Roth](#) [Jane Lincove](#) [Emily Dow](#) [Angela Henneberger](#) [Natalie Miller](#) [Rachel Durham](#) [Barbara Schmertz](#) [David Blazar](#) [Tracy Sweet](#) [Jeyan Jebaraj](#) [Mallory, Kristin Bess](#) [Rose Jordan Barry](#) [Tracy Dusablon](#) [Megean Garvin](#) [Cheryl Rollins](#) [Molly Abend](#) [Matthew Duque](#) [Chad Muntz](#) [Rachel Brash](#) [Angelina Guarino](#) [Roy Enehiroana](#) [Angela Sherman](#) [Megan Madigan](#) [Peercy](#) [Andrew Mecchi](#) [Ayomide Akano](#) sharlimardouglass@gmail.com [Emma Pellerin](#) [Edrees Nawabi](#) [Kiara Nerenberg](#) kkatzenberger@aacps.org [Rogers, Karen](#) [Aiyana Green-Odle](#) [DeWayne Morgan](#) [Logan Dean](#) [Jamal Rollins](#) [Boice, Caroline](#) [Richman, Laila](#) [Terry Shaw](#) jlynch@usmd.edu [Allen, Leanne](#) [Monica Randall](#) [Barth, Heidi](#) [Gronberg-Quinn, Linda S.](#) [Jiru, Mintesinot](#) [Molly Mesnard](#) [Elena Quiroz-Livanis](#) [Rachael Parker](#) [Yvette Mozie-ross](#)

Attachments [MLDS Center Research and Policy Advisory Board](#)

Meeting records [Recording](#)

Summary

Ann Kellogg -MHEC- welcomed attendees to the MLDDS Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB) meeting and, with Ross Goldstein -MLDSC-, outlined the March governing board agenda, which includes a review of bylaws, center output, and legislative updates. Ann Kellogg -MHEC-, Chad Muntz, and Molly B Abend -MSDE- discussed the annual RPB charter review, particularly focusing on refining the definitions of "sectors" and "cross-sector" research within the context of expanded data collections, while Ann Kellogg -MHEC- also confirmed the RPB's open membership and the establishment of a public-facing project tracker for transparency. Following a suggestion from Sharlimar Douglass regarding subgroups,

Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- and Ann Kellogg -MHEC- suggested integrating additional topics into the main RPB meeting to address advocacy needs.

Bess Rose -MLDSC- introduced Dr. Jane Lincove's early childhood data indicators project proposal, which Matthew R Duque -MSDE- requested be delayed for department review, leading Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- to hold the proposal pending MSDE's decision before potentially escalating it to the governing board due to its time sensitivity. Ann Kellogg -MHEC- then announced the development of the T-Claw tool for educator preparation programs, which Alex Handler -MLDSC- demonstrated, and reported that the DRA approved the disclosure risk approach, while Molly B Abend -MSDE- introduced new MVA data inventory items and Logan Dean -LABOR- provided details on integrating Apprenticeship Maryland Program (AMP) data to complete the apprenticeship data collection and support workforce pipeline tracking. Key updates included the legislative status of the MLDS External Data Sharing bill, with amendments addressing stakeholder concerns, and information about the upcoming research series on dual enrollment and a convening on enhancing the teacher pipeline, as well as an update on the MHEC data-sharing agreement with the PSO Census for the PSO Explorer tool.

The main talking points of the meeting included the review and potential refinement of RPB charter sector definitions, the decision to hold the early childhood data indicators project proposal for MSDE review, the development and disclosure risk review of the T-Claw tool for educator preparation programs, and the addition of MVA and AMP data to the MLDDS inventory.

Details

- **Meeting Introduction and Agenda Overview:** Ann Kellogg -MHEC- welcomed the attendees to the MLDDS Research and Policy Advisory Board (RPB) meeting and reviewed the moderately full agenda. Key topics included the March governing board agenda, a brief review of the RPB charter for new members, a project proposal, an update on the TEClaw tool, data inventory items regarding

apprenticeship and surprise items, legislative updates, and updates on the AIB blueprint. Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- was asked to lead the discussion on the governing board meeting.

- **March Governing Board Agenda:** Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- reported that the governing board's first meeting of the year will include a review of the bylaws, though staff does not propose revisions this year, and notification of the next vice chair. The meeting will also cover center output, legislation, data inventory items, and project applications and updates. No closed session, old business, or new business is planned, suggesting a light meeting, though important matters will be covered.
- **Preparation for Governing Board Discussion on Legislation:** Emily Dow -MHEC- inquired if any preparation was needed for Secretary Ry regarding legislation on the governing board meeting. Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- confirmed that Secretary Ry and Secretary Woo were already updated via email on the legislative status, and late-breaking news would be shared during the legislation segment of the RPB meeting.
- **Annual Review of the RPB Charter:** Ann Kellogg -MHEC- introduced the annual review of the RPB charter, noting that members received copies two weeks prior and that the charter generally reflects the RPB's work, which includes providing guidance on research priorities, reviewing the research agenda (now on a five-year cycle), reviewing projects, disseminating work, and assisting with center operations. Chad Muntz appreciated the meetings but raised a question about the definition of "sectors" in the research agenda, especially how data from a single entity might fit into different sectors, such as workforce data coming from the higher education sector.
- **Clarification on Cross-Sector Definition:** Molly B Abend -MSDE- clarified that the research agenda defines "cross-sector" as potentially crossing two distinct sectors from different agency data systems or two sectors where data originates from one agency. However, the center aims to avoid duplicative analysis if the originating agency can perform the analysis themselves or has not directly requested MLDDS involvement. Ann Kellogg -MHEC- acknowledged that the sector definitions, including the classification of workforce training data, would need more focus during the upcoming five-year review cycle of the research agenda, potentially a year or two away.
- **Suggestion to Refine Sector Definitions:** Chad Muntz suggested that the growth in data collections, particularly workforce data that can be answered within the

higher education sector, warrants consideration for whether MHEC should conduct these analyses or if they should remain under MLDDS as cross-sector research. Molly B Abend -MSDE- agreed that the definitions section could be revised to be clearer, providing examples that reflect the expanded data collections now available, beyond the initial scope of early childhood to K-12 or workforce and higher education.

- **Transparency of Project Tracker and Membership:** Ann Kellogg -MHEC- highlighted that the MLDDS has established a public-facing project tracker to provide transparency on project advancements and publications, which is available on their website and updated regularly. Ann Kellogg -MHEC- also confirmed that the RPB is open to having a wide-ranging membership, noting that the distribution list includes 50 to 60 people, and they are willing to add anyone suggested by current members.
- **Proposal for Subgroups or Additional Topics:** Sharlimar Douglass suggested exploring the possibility of having subgroups within the RPB, especially for members like them who focus more on education policy and advocacy rather than research. Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- suggested that instead of forming subgroups, the existing RPB meeting could include additional topics to address the needs of those in the advocacy space who wish to propose research ideas. Ann Kellogg -MHEC- noted that the cycle for asking the RPB about annual output priorities and potential research projects begins in April, which presents a good opportunity to bring forward such topics.
- **Introduction to the Early Childhood Data Indicators Project Proposal:** Bess Rose -MLDSC- introduced Dr. Jane Lincove of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, to present her project proposal on early childhood data indicators for Maryland counties. Jane Lincove, along with partners from Tulane University and UVA, explained that the project is funded by the Maryland Family Network (MFN) and centers on access to public school pre-K seats and the resulting kindergarten readiness and early grade outcomes. The project falls under the educational service and workforce outcomes theme of the MLDDS research agenda.
- **Project Scope and Data Sources:** The research questions focus on identifying disparities in pre-K access by county and student demographics, how kindergarten readiness varies across counties and subgroups, and comparing outcomes for public school pre-K students to those in other parent-reported early childhood education settings. The project will also examine early grade outcomes, including discipline events and special education identification rates.

The study is cross-sectoral, using early childhood and K-12 data from MSDE, and linking it with child welfare data to specifically look at pre-K access for children in foster care.

- **Stakeholder Benefits and Project Deliverable:** The primary product of the research will be a county-level data set, aggregated by student type and pre-K setting, to be hosted in a repository at NCED at Morgan State. This data set is intended to inform local ECE providers and planners about the scope and impact of school-based pre-K and help stakeholders understand differential benefits for demographic groups.
- **MSDE Review and Project Time Sensitivity:** Matthew R Duque -MSDE- requested that the decision on the proposal be delayed because the department, as the source of the majority of the data, had not had ample time to review the proposal, ensure alignment with their priorities, and check for redundancy. Jane Lincove noted that the proposal is time-sensitive, as the funding requires the work to be completed by the end of June.
- **Decision to Refer Proposal to Governing Board:** Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- proposed that since a question was raised by a partner agency, the RPB would put the proposal on hold and determine if MSDE could reach a decision before the next week's governing board meeting. If MSDE cannot resolve the issue or if they decide they want to conduct the research themselves, the proposal will be escalated to the governing board for a final decision. Jane Lincove was advised to keep their calendar open for the governing board meeting, in case they are needed to present.
- **Update on the TEClaw Tool for Educator Preparation Programs:** Ann Kellogg -MHEC- announced the development of the new T-Claw tool (tentatively named), a spin-off of the successful MDclaw tool, which will serve as a self-service portal for educator preparation programs. The tool will centralize data requests that have previously been handled individually for over 21 colleges and the growing alternative pathways. Ann Kellogg -MHEC- confirmed that the MHEC state plan and the work related to the "one big beautiful bill" will be critically informed by the MDclaw tool.
- **T-Claw Development and Deployment Plan:** The T-Claw tool is nearing its 1.0 version, with a targeted public deployment goal of May 1st, after internal cleanup and external testing by stakeholders like Leila Richmond and MSDE staff. The tool will likely require refreshing twice a year to accommodate the data request cycles. The initial splash page will feature a map showing the county distribution

of teacher production and employment, with plans to build in contextual indicators such as population density and the county living wage.

- **Disclosure Risk Review for T-Claw:** Ann Kellogg -MHEC- reported that the Disclosure Review Advisory Board (DRA) reviewed the T-Claw proposal and recommended the same approach used for MDclaw due to similar risk/benefit returns. This approach includes suppressing small cell sizes of 1, 2, and 3, and redacting wages for populations less than 10, while not undertaking complementary suppression. This decision was based on the low risk of identification, the easy redaction of wage data, and the fact that teacher/administrator employment is largely public directory information.
- **Demonstration of T-Claw Functionality:** Alex Handler -MLDSC- demonstrated the T-Claw tool, which includes a splash page map displaying the distribution of completers based on the county of institution, disaggregated by credential type and subcategory. Users can toggle to see completers working in Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and filter by school type (e.g., TSI, CSI, Title One), position type (e.g., principal, teacher), and employment years. The tool allows for filtering by program of completion, employment records (including those in both UI wage file and staff file), labor sector of concurrent employment, and standard demographics.
- **Questions on Employment Persistence and Future Development:** Emily Dow -MHEC- confirmed that the displayed wage data represents the median quarterly wage. Chad Muntz inquired about tracking persistence for four years (relevant to teacher tenure), which Ann Kellogg -MHEC- clarified is the next development challenge for Alex Handler -MLDSC-. The current 1.0 version shows engagement in each independent fall, but the next phase will program persistence, requiring input from the RPB on which position codes (teacher-specific or any code) should be used for tracking.
- **Update on MVA Data Inventory Items:** Molly B Abend -MSDE- announced surprise bonus data inventory items from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The MLDDS proposes adding specific MVA data elements (license class, endorsement, and issue/renewal dates) to understand outcomes for workforce training programs, especially those that may be approved for the upcoming workforce Pell grants. To reduce unnecessary data collection, the center is proposing to remove non-essential identity resolution elements, specifically the mailing address components and the license number, while retaining the residential address and social security number.

- **Apprenticeship Maryland Program Data Introduction:** Molly B Abend -MSDE- introduced Logan Dean -LABOR- to discuss the planned inventory items for the Apprenticeship Maryland Program (AMP) data, noting that this is distinct from the registered (adult) apprenticeship data the MLDDS already collects. Logan Dean -LABOR- explained that the AMP is specific to Maryland high school students, was created in 2015, and is offered by all 24 LEAs, involving about 1,200 students annually, and that this high school-specific data has not been part of the MLDDS collection previously.
- **Youth Apprenticeship Data Integration and Collection:** The Youth Apprenticeship Data (AD) program, initiated in 2015, started its first pilot year in 2016-2017 with two Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and has since been adopted by all 24 LEAs. The Department of Labor currently collects student demographics, LEA enrollment, high school, employer, occupation, and outcomes data (completion/non-completion, credentials earned) via apprenticeship agreements, which provides a snapshot of this population. Integrating this youth data with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDDS) collection is a primary goal to connect it to CTE reporting, wage outcomes, and track matriculation into higher education or other training programs.
- **Data Collection Specifics and Linkage Potential:** Data is sourced from the apprenticeship agreement when an apprentice starts and is updated periodically by each LEA at the end of the school year. Although comprehensive demographic data (race, ethnicity, sex, gender, and location) is collected, the department does not collect social security numbers or a direct persistent ID number for youth apprentices. This data has strong potential to link with unemployment insurance wage record data to track students' later involvement in the workforce and their alignment with Blueprint initiatives, such as earning industry-recognized credentials.
- **Completeness of Apprenticeship Data:** With the addition of the Youth Apprenticeship Program (AMP) data, the complete collection of apprentice data will be available to the MLDDS. The collection covers two main sets: Registered Apprenticeship, which primarily tracks adults (about 14,000 annually) and includes programs like teacher apprenticeships, and the secondary set for youth, which focuses on high-school-aged students. The data source for both collections is the apprenticeship agreement signed by the apprentice, covering programs sponsored by MSDE or sheet metal worker unions.
- **Community College Involvement in Apprenticeship:** The integration of youth apprenticeship data will help show the contribution of Maryland colleges to the

workforce training pipeline. Nine community colleges in Maryland serve as direct sponsors for apprenticeship programs, which is apparent in the data by linking apprentices to the college or employers under their program. Additionally, almost every community college provides instruction to apprentices through credit and non-credit coursework or training partnerships, and integrating more workforce college data will help align this picture with the workforce system.

- **Update on MLDS External Data Sharing Legislation:** The departmental legislation (Senate Bill 56 and House Bill 293) authorizes the governing board to share data with a third-party data center for multi-state reporting. House Bill 293 has been stalled in committee and receiving many questions, while the Senate Bill was voted out of committee but returned due to continued questions. The current status of the Senate bill includes an amendment that will require consultation, not approval, with the chief state data officer and the chief privacy officer, replacing an earlier version that granted them veto power.
- **Legislative Concerns and Proposed Amendments:** Key questions regarding the bill addressed concerns about data security, including the destruction of data upon project completion via a destruction notice and certification, which is audited against National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards. Other concerns involved the sharing of sensitive data, which the MLDDS director argued should remain a decision entrusted to the governing board. A new amendment will limit the number of data sharing agreements with third-party data centers to one at a time and require a 30-day notice to the triple E and ways and means committees after entering an agreement, along with annual updates.
- **Tracking Other Relevant Legislation:** The center is tracking other legislation, including a Maryland data privacy and protection act, House Bill 538 concerning higher education mandatory disclosures, and House Bill 1305 regarding state child welfare system reporting, which may require a report the center is already performing. They also received information about cross-filed bills HB 1220 and SB 616 concerning business regulation of data broker registries. The MLDDS center may need to ensure it is not classified as a data broker under the bills' definition.
- **Upcoming Research Series Event:** The next MLDDS research series is scheduled for May 8th at noon and will focus on the effects of dual enrollment on student outcomes. These presentations are promoted as a valuable opportunity for members and colleagues to learn about the research conducted using MLDDS data.

- **Convening on Enhancing the Teacher Pipeline:** There is an upcoming convening focused on enhancing the teacher pipeline in Maryland, which is part of a large project supported by an IES grant. The event will feature presentations on the data at the center and how it is being used to study the pathway into teaching, as well as initial research outcomes. Interested participants are encouraged to register for the free event.
- **Update on MEC Data Sharing and PSO Explorer Tool:** MHEC has entered into a data-sharing agreement with the Postsecondary Education Explorer (PSO) Census. A 10-year panel of degree data (2014 to 2024) was sent to Census, which, if confirmed, should make Maryland visible in the PSO Explorer tool by the summer. The process involves Census ingesting, reconfirming, recoding, and formatting the data before linking and making it available.
- **MSDE Special Education Position Opening:** MSDE has an opening for a data position within the Special Education division, primarily responsible for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) part B data collection and validation. This role involves ensuring the accuracy of student information within the Special Education Services Information System and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) system. The closing date for this position is the 16th.

Suggested next steps

Matthew R Duque -MSDE- will follow up with early childhood to get a decision regarding the project proposal.

Molly B Abend -MSDE- will revise the section on sectors in the research agenda to clarify the definitions, providing examples of connections that consider the increase in data collections.

Ann Kellogg -MHEC- will reach out to Leila Richmond to have her test and vet the language and labels for the T-Claw tool, and will add any people sent by attendees to the invitation list for the RPB meeting.

Ross Goldstein -MLDSC- will take a look at HB 1220 and SB616 regarding the business regulation of data broker registry.

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