

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 46
 Appropriations
 (Delegate Griffith)

Education - Student Horizon Database and Scorecard (Students Right to Know Act of 2021)

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in collaboration with other specified agencies, to annually collect specified information on jobs and postsecondary education, including the most in-demand jobs in the State and average cost of attendance. Using this information, the agencies must create and maintain a searchable Student Horizon Database that includes specified functions. By October 1, 2022, and each October 1 thereafter, MSDE must publish a Student Horizon Scorecard that ranks specified information. By October 31, 2022, and each year thereafter, each local school system must distribute the most recent scorecard to each high school student.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$283,400 in FY 2022 to build and maintain the database and create the annual scorecard, including hiring staff. Future years reflect annualization and elimination of one-time costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	283,400	99,400	102,500	106,200	109,900
Net Effect	(\$283,400)	(\$99,400)	(\$102,500)	(\$106,200)	(\$109,900)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local school systems can distribute the most recent scorecard to each high school student in their district using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Specifically MSDE, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), and the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center must annually collect information on:

- the most in-demand jobs in the State, including the starting salary and education levels required for each job;
- for all institutions of postsecondary education and private career schools in the State, specified cost, loan, graduation, and starting salary information;
- for all public four-year higher education institutions, the average total student loan debt of graduates of each institution for each undergraduate and graduate degree program at the institution;
- the completion rate and average starting salary of students enrolled in the apprenticeship, credential, and career and technical education programs while in high school;
- the completion rate and average starting salary for the first term of enlistment of students who enlist in the military; and
- the number of college graduates in the State working in an occupation that does not require a college degree.

Student Horizon Database

The searchable Student Horizon Database must include the 50 highest enrolled college majors at each public four-year education institution, vocational and private career schools, and high school career and technical education programs. It must also have a function that allows a user to compare all postsecondary education institutions and private career schools by specified metrics, including average annual cost, starting salary after graduation or completion, and percentage of students successfully paying student loan payments. Further, the database must have a search function to allow a user to choose a specific major or program at an institution of postsecondary education or private career school that yields specified results, including the percentage of students who will graduate in six years or less or complete on time.

Student Horizon Scorecard

The Student Horizon Scorecard to be published by MSDE on its website must include a list of the following:

- 50 highest enrolled majors among all public four-year higher education institutions in the State;

- 20 career and technical education and certificate programs with the highest starting salary after graduation or completion;
- 25 most in-demand jobs in the State and their corresponding salaries and education requirements; and
- base pay, benefits, and the average signing bonus of students who enlist in the military after high school graduation, along with the necessary Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Score by military branch.

Other

MSDE must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Current Law:

Federal Student Right-to-Know Act

The federal Student Right-To-Know Act of 1990 requires institutions eligible for Title IV funds under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to calculate completion or graduation rates of certificate- or degree-seeking, full-time students entering the institution. This information, as well as average cost of attendance, average loans, and salary of students who received loans two years after graduation are available on the U.S. Department of Education [College Scorecard](#).

Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center

Chapter 190 of 2010 established MLDS to contain individual-level student data and workforce data from all levels of education and the State's workforce. The legislation also established the MLDS Center within State government to serve as a central repository for the data, to ensure compliance with federal privacy laws, to perform research on the data sets, and to fulfill education reporting requirements and approved public information requests. The MLDS Center is administratively housed within MSDE.

The purpose of the data system is to facilitate and enable the exchange of student data among agencies and institutions within the State as well as generate timely and accurate information about student achievement that can be used to improve the State's education system and guide decision makers at all levels. The data system allows users to effectively organize, manage, disaggregate, and analyze individual student data and to examine student progress and outcomes over time, including preparation for postsecondary education and the workforce.

The MLDS Center may only use de-identified data in the analysis, research, and reporting conducted by the center. The center may only use aggregate data in the release of data in reports and in response to data requests.

Student data collected by MLDS includes State and national assessments; course taking and completion; grade point average; remediation; retention; degree, diploma, or credential attainment; enrollment; demographic data; juvenile delinquency records; and elementary and secondary school disciplinary records. Criminal records, children in need of assistance records, and medical and health records are specifically excluded from the types of data that MLDS may collect.

The MLDS governing board decides the specifics on incorporating new data elements into MLDS.

Local school systems, community colleges, public four-year institutions of higher education, and State agencies are required to transfer student-level and transcript-level data as well as workforce data to MLDS.

State Expenditures: The MLDS Center advises that it is the agency best suited to produce the database and scorecard required by the bill, as it was created to address cross-sector data collection and reporting. The Department of Legislative Services agrees with that assessment and advises that the center can meet the bill's requirements the most efficiently. Therefore, this estimate reflects center staff building and maintaining the database and scorecard for MSDE to host on its website and distribute to local school systems.

The center advises that it has some, but not all, of the data required for the scorecard. It has also developed reports and dashboards that are partially responsive to the scorecard requirements; however, none of the existing reports or dashboards fully meets the requirement of a consolidated searchable database with all the bill's required components. Therefore, an additional database specialist is required to incorporate, compile, and manage the new data required by the bill. The center also requires the services of a web developer contractor to create the scorecard with the bill's functionality.

Thus, general fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$283,428 in fiscal 2022, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2021 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time database specialist to incorporate the data into the database and one-time web developer contracting costs in fiscal 2022. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, one-time contracting costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$77,847
One-time Programing Costs	200,000
Ongoing Operating Expenses	<u>5,581</u>
Total FY 2022 State Expenditures	\$283,428

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses, as well as elimination of one-time expenses.

This estimate assumes that, with the MLDS Center taking the lead in producing the database and scorecard, MHEC, MDL, and MSDE can provide the center with their existing data using existing resources. To the extent that the database requires these agencies to produce additional data, enter additional data, or match individual-level data, costs for those agencies may increase. It is assumed that MSDE can host the scorecard created by the center on its website using existing resources.

To the extent that data is easier to obtain and the database requirements are less complex than estimated, costs are less. Likewise, to the extent that the project is more challenging than estimated, general fund expenditures increase.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 584 (Senator Gallion) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Labor; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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