



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: House Bill 46 **DATE:** February 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Education – Student Horizon Database and Scorecard (Students Right to Know Act of 2021) **COMMITTEE:** Appropriations

POSITION: Information Only

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 46 - Education – Student Horizon Database and Scorecard (Students Right to Know Act of 2021). The bill requires MSDE to collaborate with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), Maryland Department of Labor, and Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to annually collect, maintain, and publish specific data for a Student Horizon Database and Scorecard on MSDE’s website.

The MSDE is identified as the lead agency to coordinate the implementation of Bill requirements; however, most required data items identified in the bill are specific to MHEC and the Maryland Department of Labor. For example, the bill requires the collection of information regarding student loan debt, monthly student loan payments, cost of attendance, starting salaries of graduates, and other items that are not specific to the K-12 educational system. The items identified that are unique to K-12, such as the highest enrolled career and technical education (CTE) programs, are already publically available on the CTE Enrollment Data Dashboard (<https://www.mdctedata.org/>). Additionally, the completion rate of students in CTE programs will be publically available on the CTE Data Dashboard in March 2021.

There is already a law, [Maryland Education Code § 24-702 \(2018\)](#), that establishes the MLDS Center as the lead for facilitating and enabling the linkage of student data and workforce data for no longer than 20 years from the date of last attendance in any educational institution in the State. It is unclear how HB 46 is in alignment with the current law since it appears to shift the responsibility of longitudinally linking student data and workforce data to MSDE.

The timeline provided in the bill does not lend itself to the implementation of sound practices for data collection, validation, cleaning, analysis, and publication for the amount and type of data required by the bill. Additional time is needed to adopt a regulation, hire qualified staff, secure a data system, develop and provide training on data protocols, and build capacity on how to navigate and use data in the Horizon Database and Scorecard.

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We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 46**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.