

Letter of Information

House Appropriations Committee
House Bill 132 (Griffith) Education – Student Horizon Database and Scorecard
(Students Right to Know Act of 2022)

Sara C. Fidler, President
sfidler@micua.org
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On behalf of Maryland's 13 state-aided private nonprofit colleges and universities and the 58,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of information in reference to [***House Bill 132 \(Griffith\) Education – Student Horizon Database and Scorecard \(Students Right to Know Act of 2022\)***](#). This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to work with other State agencies to collect information annually on jobs and higher education outcomes to create a searchable Student Horizon Database. Specifically, the bill requires these data collections to include: (1) average cost of attendance; (2) monthly student loan payments; (3) a student's 3-year loan default rate; (4) graduation/completion rates; and (5) the starting salary of graduates/completers.

Nearly all the data requested by the bill is already being collected and published by the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard¹. Relevant statistics include an institution's average cost of attendance, student's typical monthly loan payments, graduation/completion rates, average salary after completion, and overall loan repayment rates (including defaults), among other indicators. In addition to providing nearly identical information to the data requested by the bill, the Federal College Scorecard provides information on all U.S. institutions of higher education and allows students to directly compare schools through an online dashboard.

Beyond the Federal College Scorecard, much of the data requested by the bill is collected by other Maryland State agencies and external organizations. The requested data can be pulled directly from these agencies without the involvement of institutions. For example, MHEC² and the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) collect data on graduation rates, IPEDS collects data on the average cost of attendance, and the U.S. Department of Education publishes statistics on 3-year default rates³. If the bill required institutions of higher education to submit the same data to multiple agencies, confusion and delays may result in all collections.

¹ Link to the Federal College Scorecard <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

² Link to MHEC's data repository <https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Pages/research/index.aspx>

³ Link to default rate data <https://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/defaultmanagement/cdr.html>

Finally, several of the identified data points will be difficult for institutions to collect and/or calculate. Starting salary is difficult to collect because not all students join the workforce right after graduation. Some go to graduate school, some work part-time, and some do not find employment immediately after graduation. In addition, to collect this data institutions would rely on the voluntary disclosure of pay from graduates. It is unlikely that all or even most students would respond to such a survey, resulting in significant missing data. The resulting statistic regarding starting salary would be heavily affected by missing data and non-response bias.

We assure you that during these unpredictable times, MICUA schools are steadfast at meeting the academic needs of our students and offering programs and services to improve student opportunities post-graduation. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments for your consideration of House Bill 132. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Aubrey Waddick, Research Analyst, awaddick@micua.org.