



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

November 24, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President
Senate of Maryland
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Report on the Submission of Data to CCA
Report #9763

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones,

I am writing regarding MSAR #9763, a standing report created in uncodified language in the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 (Chapter 533, Acts of 2013). The language requires that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) shall “each year... submit to the Department of Legislative Services de-identified data in compliance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that is collected from institutions of higher education and submitted to Complete College America.”

The Commission submitted data to Complete College America in 2014 and provided those data to DLS in fulfillment of this requirement that year. However, that was the only time since the Act became effective that any data were submitted to Complete College America. MHEC discontinued data submissions to Complete College America for several reasons. First, the required collections, which had to be conducted in addition to the regular MHEC collection, were unduly burdensome for institutions. The data definitions were and continue to be slightly different than MHEC definitions, thus requiring parallel and somewhat redundant collections. Second, the organization presented Maryland’s data inaccurately. Third, the State ceased to realize any useful benefits from participation in CCA. CCA appears to now coordinate data collections with National Student Clearinghouse (in conjunction with participating states and institutions/systems).

In 2013 MHEC expanded the data collections obtained from Maryland public and independent colleges and universities. These data have recently been restructured so that MHEC can more easily address policy questions tied to such topics as remediation, affordability, and time to degree. Using these data in new and innovative ways is an area of focus for MHEC; in the past year the agency has launched dashboards and generated new policy reports.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr.
Secretary