



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

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

September 9, 2022

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: 2021 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). MHEC does not participate in National Student Clearinghouse data collections; to do so would be at significant financial cost to the agency and is not feasible at this time.

Over the past 10 years, MHEC has advanced new data collections and has focused its energy on presenting and sharing the data in new and innovative ways; in the past few years the agency has launched dashboards, generated new policy reports, and prepared other policy relevant materials for stakeholder use.

It is important to note that Complete College America has, over the past few years, changed its structure and mission such that now it focuses on “working with states, systems, institutions, and partners to scale highly effective structural reforms and promote policies that improve student success” with priorities that are tied to collaboration and policy reform. Partnerships with states no longer hinges on the data collections as it did when 2013 CCRCCA bill was enacted. MHEC does participate in other ways in

the CCA collaboration such as attending online convenings and other opportunities that can benefit Maryland and its institutions. MHEC will continue to sustain these relationships with CCA and other national organizations.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Fielder, Jr." in a cursive style.

Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr.
Secretary