



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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December 15, 2021

The Honorable Larry Hogan State
House 100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

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

Re: Notification of late submission for legislatively mandated report, Education Article § 24-703.1(b).

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Education Article §24-703.1(b), the MLDS Center is required to submit a, "clear and easy-to-understand graphic data dashboard that is published annually on the Center's website with information, disaggregated by county, regarding the experience of former children in out-of-home placements and how out-of-home placement affected participation in higher education."

The above reporting requirement was established during the 2021 legislative session (see Chapter 306, Laws of 2021). Prior to the legislation, the MLDS Center was not permitted to have child welfare data. The bill went into effect on October 1, 2021. The Center and the Department of Human Services, the custodian of child welfare data, are currently working through the following steps: establishing a data sharing agreement; understanding the data and whether it can be matched to student and workforce data; identifying the needed data elements to complete the required report; and obtaining Governing Board approval to add the data to the Data Inventory. Once those steps are completed, the Center staff will need time to load the data and match it to Maryland student and worker data in the system. These steps are time consuming and complex and will take at least eight to ten months to complete. As such, the reporting requirement cannot be met this year. The Center looks forward to completing the report in time to meet the 2022 reporting deadline.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ross Goldstein
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)