

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Report on Performance Funding Graduates Measure
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
February 2, 2017

DESCRIPTION

MDHE staff have worked extensively with representatives of the public four-year institutions, community colleges, Missouri State University–West Plains, and State Technical College of Missouri to develop and implement strategies for reporting of graduate outcomes data for performance funding as directed in state statute. This agenda item provides an update on the collection and reporting of these data.

Background

Missouri is one of a growing number of states that has adopted a higher education funding model driven by institutional progress toward identified state and institutional goals. Initially adopted by the Coordinating Board in 2012, the model was first used to allocate new funds for institutional operations in FY 2014 and the general framework was codified in statute during the 2014 legislative session. The 2014 statute codified the measures in use at the time, in which each institution reported four metrics which were categorized as measures of student success, quality of student learning, increased degree attainment and institutional efficiency, and one additional measure unique to its institutional mission. In addition, however, the legislation directed institutions, in cooperation with the Coordinating Board, to develop a measure of “student job placement in a field or position associated with the students’ degree level and pursuit of a graduate degree.”

This new measure of graduate outcomes, commonly known as “the sixth measure,” has been the subject of extensive discussions as MDHE staff and the institutions have worked together to develop approaches to fairly and efficiently collect data on as many graduates as is practicable. In fall 2016, these sector-specific approaches were finalized to the extent that it was possible to collect a pilot year of graduate outcomes data. While no FY 2018 dollars will be distributed based on this data, it will assist in making decisions about success criteria and peer benchmarks in future years.

Data Collection

As reported previously to the Coordinating Board, the four-year institutions administered the “First-Destination Survey” developed and published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). The survey collects data on several outcome statuses, including employment, voluntary and military service, and continuing education. Four-year institutions administered the survey to spring 2016 graduates and will continue in subsequent semesters. The national protocol for the NACE survey allowed student follow-up through December 31 for spring graduates (which will also ensure comparability with national data), so data were unavailable in December when data for the first five measures were reported to the board.

The community colleges proposed an approach to graduate outcomes that would use their existing federal Perkins/180-day follow-up survey, the National Student Clearinghouse, and state wage records, with the assistance of MDHE staff, to account for effectively all certificate and associate degree completers for the 2014-2015 academic year. Missouri State University–West Plains will follow the same framework, but will not have Perkins/180-day follow-up survey for 2014-2015 graduates, having joined the program more recently.

State Technical College currently has a measure based on federal Perkins/180-day follow-up survey data which effectively includes all graduates. State Technical College plans to employ the same measure as its outcomes measure when the other sectors have implemented it and to replace it with a measure of assessment of general education for associate degree graduates.

Conclusion

MDHE staff is unable to include results of the first year of graduate outcomes data in this agenda item due to timelines for collection but expect to be able to provide a brief summary at the February 2 meeting.

Moving forward, some further discussion will be required regarding success criteria, sustained excellence benchmarks, and acceptable response/knowledge rates for surveys, as well as the timing of ongoing data collection in relation to the state's budget process. These decisions are not crucial prior to the collection of pilot data. However, a year of data should help inform some of these discussions in the coming year. As is the case with the other measures, additional documentation and definitions will also be useful, as highlighted in the recently released state audit. These lingering issues can also be discussed by a performance funding task force to be convened later this year.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Section 163.191, RSMo – State aid to community colleges

Section 173.1006, RSMo – Establishment of performance measures

Section 173.1540, RSMo – State aid to four-year institutions

Section 178.638, RSMo – Oversight of college by coordinating board and state board of education

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None