



MHEC
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 Secretary

**Maryland Higher Education Commission
 Fiscal 2021 Budget**

**Testimony of Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr., Secretary of Higher Education,
 to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development and
 the Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration**

February 12 & 14 2020

Recommended Actions – pgs. 2, 23 & 24

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Toward the 55% Completion Goal: The budget committees understand that, in order to meet the State’s goal to have at least 55% of Maryland’s residents age 25 to 64 holding at least one degree credential by 2025, accurate and timely information on degree progression and best practices is needed to ensure that the State is on track to meet the goal. The budget committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) annually collect and analyze student- and transcript-level data on progression, graduation, and other relevant metrics from each public institution of higher education, including community colleges and regional higher education centers. MHEC should submit a report by December 15 each year that analyzes the data and shows each institution’s progress toward the State and institutional goals in 2025. The report should also include a summary of best practices and findings on the effectiveness of institutions’ programs as well as any concerns regarding lack of progress or best practices that are not being implemented by institutions.

	Author	Due Date
Information Request Report on best practices and annual progress toward the 55% completion goal	MHEC	December 15, 2020

MHEC response: MHEC concurs with the Recommended Action.

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Report on Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards: Beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year and in a student's third academic year, students receiving the Educational Excellence Award must successfully complete 30 credit hours in the prior academic year in order to receive the full award amount. Students who completed at least 24 credit hours but less than 30 credit hours will have their awards prorated, and those who do not complete at least 24 credit hours will lose their award. The committees are interested in the impact the new 30-credit-hour requirement had on students in the 2019-2020 academic year, particularly if students are meeting the requirement in order to receive the full amount of award, how many students had their awards prorated, and how many students lost eligibility. The report should also include the graduation rates of students who completed 30 credit hours compared to those who completed less than 30 credit hours. The report should provide summary data by segment (community colleges, four-year public, and independent institutions) and by institution. The report is due by December 15, 2020.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on impact of credit completion requirement on financial aid awards	Maryland Higher Education Commission	December 15, 2020

MHEC response: MHEC concurs with this recommended action.

3. Adopt the following narrative:

Institutional Aid, Pell Grants, and Loan Data by Expected Family Contribution Category: In order to more fully understand all types of aid available to students, the committees request that data be submitted for each community college, public four-year institution, and independent institution on institutional aid, Pell grants, and student loans. Data should include, by expected family contribution (EFC), the number of loans and average loan size of federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans and loans from private sources as reported to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Additionally, data should be provided on Pell grants, including the number and average award size by EFC. Finally, data should include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for institutional grants, institutional athletic scholarships, and other institutional scholarships. The data in the response should differentiate between need-based aid and merit scholarships. Data should also include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for tuition waivers/remissions of fees to employees and dependents and students. Waiver information for students should be reported by each type of waiver in State law. This report should cover fiscal 2019 data received by MHEC from State institutions and is to be submitted in an electronic format (Excel file).

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on fiscal 2019 financial aid categories by EFC	MHEC	June 30, 2020

MHEC response: MHEC concurs with this recommended action.

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Amend the Budget Reconciliation and Finance Act (BRFA) to restore the link between the Joseph A. Sellinger Program formula and enrollment at independent institutions receiving support through the formula and State per FTES appropriation at selected four-year public institutions of higher education. Further amend the BRFA to calculate the formula for fiscal 2022 and subsequent years using the percentage of the State's per FTES funding for selected public four-year institutions of higher education to which the fiscal 2021 Sellinger funding level approved by the General Assembly equates.

MHEC response: MHEC concurs with the Governor's Allowance.