

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

- Governing board with coordinating responsibilities
- Data collected from 2-year public, 4-year public, independent (private, non-profit), and proprietary (private, for-profit) institutions in the system and state
- Financial aid entity
- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has received 2 NCES Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grants (FY09, FY09 [ARRA]), totaling over \$18.9 million. The agency included its postsecondary partners in the FY2009 Request for Application made possible through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SUR NAME **Higher Education Information Resource System (HEIRS)**

Year SUR Established **1995**

Last period of upgrade/modification **Since 2000**

Start up funds received **yes**

Recurring funds received **no**

#### Reasons SUR was Established

- legislative compliance
- other reason (*performance measurement and assessment*)

#### Legal Authority to Collect Data

- state law creating coordinating or governing board

#### INSTITUTIONAL COVERAGE, TYPES OF DATA, AND METADATA

##### Institutional Coverage

- 2-year public
- 4-year public
- independent (private, non-profit)
- proprietary (private, for-profit)

##### IPEDS Roles

**Verification** not applicable

**Reporting** not applicable

**Participation in IPEDS Surveys** not applicable

##### Types of Data Collected

- K-12 academic history (*high school, admissions test scores*)
- postsecondary academic history (*placement test scores, transfer*)
- demographic
- postsecondary enrollment
- course-level information
- finance (*tuition, fees, fiscal management*)
- financial aid
- completions
- non-credit instructional activity (*pre-college courses [remedial, developmental], continuing education courses*)
- academic program inventory
- institutional characteristics
- facilities/capital projects
- Adult Basic Education (*GED, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language*)

#### Authority to Change Data Elements/Definitions

- agency/entity staff
- group that includes appropriate institutional/campus personnel

#### Internal Primary Key(s) to Build Longitudinal Records

- Social Security Number (*no plans to discontinue use as internal primary key*)
- internally generated student identifier

#### Metadata

##### business procedures

- data element dictionary
- data submission/reporting procedure
- data certification forms

##### technical procedures

- data validation/data checking procedure
- data audit procedure
- statistical mechanisms used to alert institutional user of successful or unsuccessful data validation
- statistical mechanisms used to alert institutional user of successful or unsuccessful data audit

#### USES OF SUR DATA

##### Current Uses and Purposes

- decision-/policymaking
- generating reports and statistics (internal and external)
- consumer information for prospective students
- research
- cross-sector collaboration (K-12, labor, etc.)
- other purpose (*accountability compliance and policy forecasting and modeling*)

**Types of Reports**

- completions
- course taking patterns
- dual credit/dual enrollment
- enrollment
- financial aid (*independent and proprietary/for-profit institutions included*)
- high school feedback
- institutional finance
- institutional profile, public
  - (*independent institutions included*)
- non-credit instructional activity
- performance measures
- remediation
- retention
- transfer
- tuition/fees/college costs
- other report(s)
  - admission yield rates (application acceptance/enrollment)*

**Audiences Receiving Some or All Reports**

governor's office, legislature, coordinating or governing board, K-12 (agency, districts, and/or schools), general public, other audience (Massachusetts Executive Office of Education)

**LINKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH AGENCIES, STATES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**State P-20 Data Warehouse** yes

**Managing Agency** Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

**Host Agency** Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

**Contributors**

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education,  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary/Secondary Education

**Links to State Agencies/Entities**

- state education agency (K-12)
  - Access to K-12 agency elements** yes

**Links to Other States** no

**Links to External Organizations**

- National Student Clearinghouse

**Primary IDs Used in Matching**

- Other ID (*ID generated from first name, last name, date of birth*)

**Demographic Elements Used in Matching**

- name
- date of birth
- gender
- address
- other data element (*town of residence*)

**Legal Mechanisms Enabling Linking**

- memorandum of agreement/understanding

**Barriers to Linking**

- resources
- FERPA concerns

**MECHANISMS TO ENSURE DATA QUALITY**

**Responsibility for Entering Data**

- appropriate institutional/campus personnel

**Responsibility for Checking/Verifying Data**

- appropriate institutional/campus personnel

**Method of Informing IR Personnel of Data Submission Inconsistencies**

- manual notification (e.g., email, phone call from agency/entity)
- automated notification (e.g., web-based, program-based method)

**On-site Institutional Data Audits** no

**Professional Development for IR Professionals** yes

**Mandatory?** no

**Frequency** annually

**DATA ELEMENTS COLLECTED**

**Postsecondary Elements (36)**

- demographic*
- ✓ - student name
- ✓ - date of birth
- ✓ - gender
- ✓ - race/ethnicity
- ✓ - Social Security Number
- K-12 identification number
- ✓ - Institutional identification number
- ✓ - student identification number
- ✓ - citizenship
- ✓ - state residency status
- postsecondary academic history*
- ✓ - admissions scores
- ✓ - placement scores
- ✓ - prior college(s) attended
- ✓ - transfer credits
- enrollment status*
- ✓ - degree seeking status
- ✓ - attendance status (full-/part-time)
- ✓ - 1<sup>st</sup> term of academic history
- ✓ - program/major
- financial aid*
- dependency status
- ✓ - family income
- ✓ - federal financial aid
- ✓ - state financial aid
- ✓ - institutional financial aid
- ✓ - other financial aid
- ✓ - merit-based financial aid
- ✓ - need-based financial aid
- FAFSA fields
- academic activity*
- ✓ - course title
- ✓ - course mode of instruction
- course grade
- ✓ - term student credit hours (SCH) attempted
- ✓ - term SCH earned
- academic attainment*
- ✓ - degree awarded
- ✓ - degree date
- ✓ - cumulative SCH earned
- ✓ - cumulative GPA

**K-12 Elements (13)**

- demographic*
- ✓ - student free and reduced-price lunch eligibility
- language spoken at home
- ✓ - disability status
- high school background*
- ✓ - high school attended
- ✓ - district/school code
- student resident county-district code
- academic activity*
- ✓ - date student enrolled
- ✓ - course type
- course title
- course grade
- academic attainment*
- ✓ - high school GPA
- ✓ - high school graduation date
- ✓ - assessment scores

**Labor/Workforce Elements (15)**

- employer ID number
- employer size (# of employees monthly)
- employer county
- wages earned
- wage type code
- hours worked
- employment quarter code
- employment year
- date student/employee applied for Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- date student first received UI check
- other agencies providing services to student while student is receiving UI
- U.S. Census North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code
- U.S. Census NAICS title
- U.S. Department of Labor Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code
- U.S. Department of Labor SOC title