



# MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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## Memorandum

**To:** Senator Nancy King, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee - Education, Business, and Administration  
  
Delegate Stephanie Smith, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee - Education and Economic Development

**From:** Ross Goldstein, Executive Director

**Date:** House – February 1, 2024  
Senate - February 8, 2024

**Subject:** Fiscal Year 2025 – MLDS Operational Budget R00A05 (MSDE Headquarters R00A01)

Thank you for your continuing support for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the budget analysis and share several highlights about the Center's work during the past year.

1. The Governing Board approved the addition of 140 new data elements to MLDS Data Inventory. The majority of the data elements are related to workforce development programs and U.S. Census block and tract information. Another 77 external, temporary data elements were also added to support specific research projects.
2. The MLDS Center supported the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by providing data to inform the College and Career Readiness standard adopted by the State Board of Education; by working, under an interagency agreement, to provide research and analytic support to the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), and by providing reporting on teacher preparation and diversity.
3. The Center helped inform the Commission to Study the Healthcare Workforce Crisis by analyzing workforce outcomes for health care related graduates from Maryland Community colleges.
4. Dr. Angela Henneberger, Associate Research Professor at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work and the MLDS Center Research Branch Director won an "abstract of distinction award" for the research she presented at the national conference of the Society for Prevention Research. This research examined student mobility rates in K-12 and higher education by student and school characteristics.
5. The MLDS Center completed a year-long project to revise its Research Agenda. The new Research Agenda provides clearer guidance on the types of research and reporting that the MLDS supports and is more responsive to changing data, changing priorities, and unique research opportunities.
6. The MLDS Center is hosting two Service Year Option/Maryland Corp members.
7. Once again, the MLDS Center Research Branch had four articles published in prestigious academic journals; demonstrating the high quality of work being produced by the researchers.

**Page 16 – DLS recommends that MSDE comment on agency efforts to reduce vacancy rates and plans to deploy any vacancy savings in fiscal 2024.**

Two of the vacancies cited by DLS are MLDS Center vacancies. The MLDS Center received three new positions in the FY 2024 budget:

- Research Statistician III – filled
- Data Analyst – active recruitment (interview stage)
- Senior Database Engineer – working with MSDE and DBM on position classification

The data analyst and senior database engineer services are currently being fulfilled by a contract and as such, there are no anticipated savings from the vacancies.

Thank you again for your support of the MLDS Center. Please feel free to contact me, ([ross.goldstein@maryland.gov](mailto:ross.goldstein@maryland.gov)) with any questions about the Center, our work, the budget allocation, or any research or data inquires that you may have.