

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

- Governing board
- Data collected from 4-year public institutions in the system
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education has received 3 NCES Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grants (FY06, FY09, FY09 [ARRA]), totaling over \$24.3 million. The agency included its postsecondary and labor partners in the FY2009 Request for Application made possible through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.
- 1 of 3 state level postsecondary student unit record (SUR) systems
- Other postsecondary SURs in state (click on active link(s) to view profile): [Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education](#) [Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency](#) (not included in study)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SUR NAME **Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Student Data System**

Year SUR Established **1988**

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

Start up funds received **yes**

Recurring funds received **no**

Reasons SUR was Established

- legislative compliance
- IPEDS reporting
- increasing student achievement
- tracking student retention/graduation

Legal Authority to Collect Data

- state law creating coordinating or governing board
- coordinating or governing board policy interpreting state law(s)

INSTITUTIONAL COVERAGE, TYPES OF DATA, AND METADATA

Institutional Coverage

- 4-year public

IPEDS Roles

Verification

- coordinator
- keyholder

Reporting

- coordinator
- keyholder

Participation in IPEDS Surveys

- Institutional Characteristics (IC)
- 12-month Enrollment (E12)
- Completions (C)
- Human Resources (Employees by Assigned Position (EAP), Fall Staff (S), and Salaries (SA))
- Fall Enrollment (EF)
- Graduation Rate (GRS)
- Finance (F)
- Student Financial Aid (SFA)

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]*)
- academic program inventory
- faculty/staff
- institutional characteristics
- facilities/capital projects
- labor/workforce/Unemployment Insurance

Authority to Change Data Elements/Definitions

- agency/entity staff

Internal Primary Key(s) to Build Longitudinal Records

- Social Security Number (*plans to discontinue use as internal primary key*)

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
- other purpose (*allocation of resources, performance assessment*)

Types of Reports

- articulation
- completions
- course cost analysis
- distance education
- dual credit/dual enrollment
- enrollment
- facilities utilization
- financial aid
- institutional finance
- institutional profile, public
- non-credit instructional activity
- performance measures
- remediation
- retention
- transfer
- tuition/fees/college costs

Audiences Receiving Some or All Reports

governor's office, legislature, coordinating or governing board, other state agencies, federal agencies, general public

LINKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH AGENCIES, STATES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

State P-20 Data Warehouse yes

Managing Agency Pennsylvania Department of Education

Host Agency Pennsylvania Department of Education

Contributors

Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education, public school districts (local education agencies), institutions of higher education (directly)

Links to State Agencies/Entities

- state financial aid agency/entity
- state education agency (K-12)(*expansion in progress*)

Access to K-12 agency elements no

Links to Other States no

Links to External Organizations

- National Student Clearinghouse

Primary IDs Used in Matching

- Social Security Number
- State ID

Demographic Elements Used in Matching

- name
- date of birth
- gender
- race/ethnicity
- address

Legal Mechanisms Enabling Linking

- administrative rule/regulation

Barriers to Linking

- resources
- data quality concerns
- FERPA concerns

MECHANISMS TO ENSURE DATA QUALITY

Responsibility for Entering Data

- office/division within agency/entity

Responsibility for Checking/Verifying Data

- office/division within agency/entity

Method of Informing IR Personnel of Data Submission Inconsistencies

- manual notification (e.g., email, phone call from agency/entity)

On-site Institutional Data Audits yes
Frequency annually

Professional Development for IR Professionals no

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)
- ✓ - 1st 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