



MHEC
Creating a state of achievement

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Secretary

Maryland Higher Education Commission Higher Education Fiscal 2021 Budget Overview

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

January 23 & 24, 2020

Issues

Issue 1, page 27. The Chancellor, presidents of SMCM and MSU, MICUA, and MACC should comment on programs or initiatives to re-enroll and ensure successful outcomes of those students with SCND.

The Secretary of MHEC should comment on factors attributing the high percentage of SCND whose last enrollment was at a Maryland institution completing at an out-of-state institution.

MHEC Response: The data presented in the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) report indicate that students who leave Maryland institutions are likely to complete at out-of-state institutions, including out-of-state online programs. Maryland is home to one of the largest public four-year online institutions, University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). There may be a substantial number of students who started at UMGC -- and therefore be considered "starting at Maryland institution" per the NSC report -- and ultimately complete their programs of study at more local institutions in their home states. Further analysis of the NSC data is needed to confirm this hypothesis. Similarly, during the timeframe of the NSC study, there were several large out-of-state institutions (e.g., ITT, Brightwood, Kaplan) that were operating in Maryland that may account for some of the "out-of-state" completion counts even though the campus was physically located in Maryland.

We are aware that students may leave an institution and re-enroll in other institutions for a variety of reasons. Once near-completers or SCND students are in the workforce, marketing strategies and industry networks may encourage students to complete their degrees at specific institutions. Further qualitative analysis is needed to better understand a students' choices in starting and completing at specific institutions.

Through our initiatives, we have partnered with institutions to help them identify which of their students are most likely to return and tailor messages that encourage near completers to return to Maryland higher education institutions suited to help them meet their educational goals.