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July 1, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

You are receiving this email as the designated point of contact for all MHEC data collection activities at your institution. Please share this information with your colleagues and other relevant campus offices. This email provides an update on MHEC data collections for the 2026-27 year. For the most current information, please refer to the Data Website.

I am pleased to announce the following:

1. MHEC will be disseminating new login credentials for file submissions. Timing and details are forthcoming.
2. Updated data collection layouts specifications for 2026-27 have been posted on the data website.
3. New data elements added last year as optional, are now required.
4. Most updates this year are clarifications that aim to provide more detailed guidance for data elements that frequently cause errors due to inaccurate reporting or formatting.
5. Some required updates support participation in the [Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer](#) (PSEO). These updates are important for your institution to participate in the PSEO Explorer.
6. Many of the new data elements added are only required for institutions with programs eligible for Workforce Pell. A memo on changes to the Workforce Training data collections will be provided separately.
7. The scope of the Financial Aid Information System (FAIS) collection has been changed to include students at community colleges participating in workforce training programs.
8. A separate memo will be forthcoming providing information on the development of the new GEOCODER data collection.

Maryland Data Collection calendars for each segment are posted on the Data Website. Direct links to the calendars are provided below.

Data Collection Segment Calendars

[Community College Calendar](#)

[Four-Year Public Calendar](#)

[Independent Institution Calendar](#)

[Private Institution Calendar](#)

2026-27 Unit Record Updates and Clarifications

A summary of the changes are listed below.

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Data Collection	Announcement
Degree Information System (DIS)	<p>New Data Element Required for 2026-27: New Elements. To support MHEC's participation in the Postsecondary Outcomes Explorer (PSEO), the following data fields will be added to the Degree Information System (DIS) collection. These fields are mandatory with the next DIS submission (edit checks beginning with the July 2026 DIS submission). If the fields are not provided, the DIS records will not be provided to PSEO.</p> <p>First Name (DD11) Last Name (DD10) Middle Name (DD12) Generation Suffix (DD13)</p> <p>Data Element Revised for 2026-27: The existing Advanced Standing data element (DD170) will be divided into two separate data elements. DD170 will remain associated with the Enrollment Information System (EIS) collection. A new DD will be associated with the Degree Information System (DIS). There are no definition changes to either data element. This change increases the clarity of the definitions in the Cookbook.</p> <p>DIS Data Elements discontinued: The Reverse Transfer Flag, DD118, will be discontinued. For 2026-2027, institutions may continue to populate this field, but it must be reported as blank for the 2027-2028 collection year.</p> <p>Informational Only: MHEC was requested to shift the data collection for DIS from August to October. Unfortunately, due to state reporting requirements, the date for submitted DIS cannot be delayed. DIS must continue to be submitted in the normal August time frame for Edit Checks for the data to clear validations during the September to November for use in the December reporting cycle.</p>
Maryland Approved Program Completer System (MAPCS)	<p>Data Element Revised for 2026-27: A new value has been added to the Code set for MAPCS Program Type (DD169).</p> <p>8= Program leading to licensure through the Apprentice Teacher (RTAP) program</p>
External Credit System (ECS)	<p>New Data Element Optional for 2026-27: A data element, Advance Standing Credit, has been added to identify credits awarded under the COMAR definition of advanced</p>

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	standing to the ECS collection. This element is optional for 2026-2027 and required in 2027-2028.
End of Term System (EOTS)	<p>Data Element Revised for 2026-27: First Math Grade (DD48) and First English Grade (DD50) have been revised to include new values to support reporting for math and English courses taken by new students prior to, during and after matriculation. These new values are optional for 2026-2027 and required in 2027-2028.</p>
Enrollment Information System (EIS)	<p>Clarifications: High School Code (DD40) - When reporting high school code for students with first-time flag=1, if high school is not known, report 219100, unknown Maryland high school if you are reporting Geographic Origin (DD23) with any Maryland code, Residency Code (DD110)=1 or Maryland Resident and/or Tuition Status (DD32) = with any in-district or in-state codes. If two or more of these fields are coded as out-of-state, report DD40 as 219300, Out-of-State high school.</p> <p>The existing Advanced Standing data element (DD170) will be divided into two separate data elements. The definition for Advanced Standing, DD170, will now exclusively reference the EIS data collection. The text under the Comments section "For DIS only" has been removed. A new Advanced Standing DD for DIS has been created.</p> <p>The existing First Time Flag (DD37) data element has been retired and replaced to improve the clarity of the data definition. Only the current definition remains. Older versions of the data definition can be found archived in First Time Flag Retired (DD37X).</p> <p>The existing Freeze Flag (DD2.1) data element has been retired and replaced to improve the clarity of the data definition. Only the current definition remains. Older versions of the data definition can be found archived in Freeze Flag Old DD2.1X (DD2.1X).</p> <p>Data Element Revised for 2026-27: A new value has been added to the Code set for MAPCS Program Type (DD169).</p> <p>8= Program leading to licensure through the Apprentice Teacher (RTAP) program</p> <p>Data Element Revised for 2026-27:</p>

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	<p>The definition for Tuition Status (DD32) has been clarified and three additional code choices have been added. The new codes are optional for AY27.</p> <p>New Data Element Optional for 2026-27: A data element, IPEDS Degree Flag, has been added to identify students within the enrollment file that a college reported in the Fall Enrollment Survey to IPEDS. This field is optional for collection year 2026-2027 and required for collection year 2027-2028.</p>
<p>Workforce Training Completers System (WTCS)</p>	<p>New Workforce Pell Data Elements Required for 2026-27: A series of new data elements have been added to WTCS to support Workforce Pell implementation. The data definitions and file layout materials are still being finalized as state rule-making is still in-progress at the time of this announcement. A separate announcement will be made in August regarding changes to WTCS.</p> <p>Other New Data Elements Required for 2026-27: A new data element, Course Intent, will now be included in WTCS. This field is optional for collection year 2026-2027 and required for collection year 2027-2028.</p>
<p>Workforce Training Registration System (WTRS)</p>	<p>New Workforce Pell Data Elements Required for 2026-27: A series of new data elements have been added to WTRS to support Workforce Pell implementation. The data definitions and file layout materials are still being finalized as state rule-making is still in-progress at the time of this announcement. A separate announcement will be made in August regarding changes to WTRS.</p>
<p>Financial Aid Information System (FAIS)</p>	<p>FAIS Data Elements discontinued: The Fall Attendance(DD33) and Spring Attendance (DD34) will be discontinued. For 2026-2027, institutions may continue to populate both fields, but it must be reported as blank for the 2027-2028 collection year.</p> <p>Informational Only: When submitting the FAIS file, an institution must indicate if the file submitted includes awards made with summer as a header or trailer.</p> <p>Data Element Revised for 2026-27: The definition for Financial Aid Application Status (DD77) has been revised. Students may file a FAFSA and receive an SAI that is blank. We are adding a new value to the code set to identify students who complete a FAFSA but, due to being ineligible for federal aid, they receive a SAI that is blank.</p> <p>Clarifications:</p>

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	<p>The Student Aid Index (SAI DD175) replaced Expected Family Contribution on the FAFSA. Students may file a FAFSA and receive an SAI that is blank. Financial Aid Application Status, DD77, was revised to accommodate blank SAI. The new value for DD77 has created new clarifications for Dependency Status (DD79), Parent Education Status (DD142), and SAI (DD175),</p> <p>Population Scope Change: Effective with the 2026-2027 Financial Aid Information System (FAIS) data collection, all students enrolled in noncredit/workforce training courses at Maryland community colleges who received Federal, State and/or Institutional financial aid must be included in the data submission. New aid category codes have been added to support the inclusion of these students. Do not include students who are exclusively being funded by employers via contract training. But do include students who are partially funded by employees via contract training if they also receive Federal, State, or Institutional financial aid.</p> <p>Aid Category Codes: A list of new financial aid award codes (Aid Category Codes, DD84) for undergraduate, graduate and noncredit/workforce training programs will be available on MHEC's website. A list of discontinued codes will also be listed.</p> <p>Please make sure to review the list and to use the following aid codes when reporting the institutional contributions of the aid given to dually enrolled students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1345 - Early College Access Program (ECAP)- ECAP is designed to allow authorized high school students to explore college level coursework. Students eligible for ECAP have a portion/all of their tuition and associated costs for approved course(s) paid by their LEA. For some students, the remaining portion is paid for by the college in which they are enrolled for their dual enrollment course(s). • 1112 - Early College Access Grant - Maryland public high school students who enroll in ECAP (see above) and demonstrate financial need can possibly receive the Early College Access Grant. This \$200 grant can help pay for the registration fees, general student fees, lab fees and tuition.
<p>Employment Data System (EDS)</p>	<p>Clarifications: An additional example was added to the code 1 = Less than Bachelors for the Highest Degree Attained (DD95).</p>

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	<p>An additional example was added to clarify reporting campus staff under the Employment Contract Renewable Flag (DD104) whose contracts are not classified as 1, 2 or 4.</p> <p>Revisions were made to the Functional Definition, Coding and Comments for Promotion (DD96) to clarify the correct application of the coding.</p>
Student Course Registration System (SCRS)	<p>New Data Element Optional for 2026-27:</p> <p>A data element, Career Connected Learning, has been added to SCRS To support the state's interest in workforce readiness. This initiative is closely aligned with Governor Moore's strategic agenda to ensure every Maryland graduate is equipped with the practical skills and professional networks necessary to succeed in the workforce and civic life. We will begin collecting data that identifies courses that are classified as either an internship, externship or experiential learning. This field is optional for collection year 2026-2027 and required for collection year 2027-2028.</p>
GEOCODER	<p>Piloting New Data Collection</p> <p>The agency will be rolling out a pilot on a new collection tied to the Census geocode tool. This work, the result of a state-level workgroup, will be launched later this year with a memo and announcement.</p>

An Important Note:

Ensuring the secure receipt of your data is our priority. As we begin the new data collection year, please be advised that we will be updating your institution's password beginning the morning of Monday, July 13, 2026. MHEC acknowledges that there is no ideal time for such system updates given the calendar due dates, but we have aimed to schedule this action to minimize disruptions to collection deadlines. This update is for the MAC2 survey password where your institutional USERID (which will not change), is prefaced with an "M" and the MAC2 unit record password, where the USERID is prefaced with a "P." Note that the current password is 8-digits, however, the new password requirement is 12-digits. We anticipate having the system operational for logins with the new passwords by noon on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. If the validation process is completed sooner, you will be notified accordingly.

During this update period, you will not be able to access the MAC2 system using your current password, as we will be assigning the new credentials and conducting validations. Once testing is complete, you will be sent your new login information in a secure email.

We kindly ask that you log into the system with the new password by Wednesday, July 15, 2026. This will allow us to address any potential issues before data collection items are due.

Reminders:

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MHEC will no longer accept collection files with spaces between commas. If a data element is not reported where the field is blank, there should be successive commas in the csv file, NOT a space between the commas. The file will be promptly returned to the institution for corrections.

For a new institutional Point of Contact, there is an introductory page that discusses data collection websites, emails, and Institutional Point-of-Contact and MHEC responsibilities as it relates to file submissions.

Please submit questions to mac2help.mhec@maryland.gov.

As always, thank you for your partnership as we begin a new data collection year.

Regards,
William Kegel
Director of Information Technology
Maryland Higher Education Commission

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