The Maryland Longitudinal Data System
Data-Driven Decision Making

What is the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS)?

Maryland has a new tool to track student achievement and educational outcomes – the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS). MLDS connects student data from across Maryland's education and workforce agencies to provide a more complete picture of the progress students are making as they move from Pre-K through grades K-12 and into higher education and the workforce.

MLDS makes it possible to monitor student performance as well as track statewide educational trends over the long term – providing a variety of data that can be utilized to improve student outcomes, school practice, and education policy.

At the classroom level, educators are able to see the impact of their curriculum and practices on college and career attainment. At the state level, this information can provide insight into the success of educational policies and programs.

Ultimately, MLDS allows us to see where students have come from, where they are going, and what they need to be fully prepared to succeed in college and the workforce.

> *"Being able to better measure the progress that our kids are making is critically important for expanding opportunity and improving job options in the future."*
>
> – Governor Martin O'Malley

What kinds of data are being collected by MLDS?

Courses taken • Grades achieved • Test results • Participation • Persistence and completion • Grade Point Average • Transitions • Degree, diploma, or credential attainment • Enrollment • Credits earned • Demographic data • Employment status • Wage information • Type of employment •

Where does the data come from?

- The Maryland State Department of Education
- The Maryland Higher Education Commission
- The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Maryland State Department of Education – Preparing World-Class Students

MHEC – Maryland Higher Education Commission

State of Maryland DLLR – Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

The MLDS Online Portal

Getting the Right Data to the Right People

The MLDS online portal organizes the system's vast amount of data by user, ensuring that the people of Maryland can easily access the right information to fit their needs.

Data for Parents and Students:

Parents and students will be able to see how students progress towards college- and career-readiness. The data will help them determine what courses, training programs, and institutions can lead to success in a student's college and career goals.

Data for Educators:

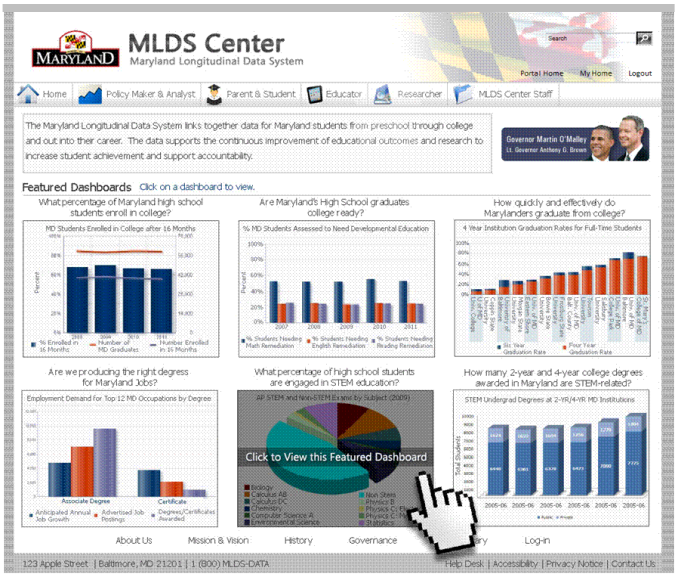
Educators can use student data to track the progress of students over the long term and adjust curricular choices, teaching methods, and classroom practice to improve student readiness and achievement.

Data for Researchers:

Researchers will be able to analyze MLDS data to help evaluate and answer questions about the State's education policies and outcomes – turning raw data into useful, actionable information.

Data for Policymakers:

Policymakers will be able to evaluate which education policies and programs are effective and where improvements are needed. That information will help them to make decisions based on what is shown to increase student achievement and educational outcomes.



Dashboards

Transforming Data into Knowledge

"Dashboard" – A visual display of information usually as a graph or chart; makes data easy to interpret and understand.

The data collected by MLDS will be displayed through easy-to-use online dashboards on the MLDS portal. The dashboards will help teachers, parents, policymakers, and other education stakeholders analyze and interpret the data, allowing them to use this new information to improve student achievement and college- and career-readiness.

To visit the MLDS online portal and view the data dashboards, go to: MLDSCenter.org

PRIVACY & SECURITY

MLDS follows strict guidelines to maintain student confidentiality and ensure the data it collects is secure. The names of individual students and any other identifying information, including the State Assigned Student Identifier, will be removed from all data available to the public and researchers. Security protocols are also in place limiting who has access to what data and for what purpose. Maryland also follows all applicable federal laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), to ensure data security and privacy for students and their families.