

Frequently Asked Questions: Postsecondary Enrollment Reports State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Indicator (c)(11)

1. Why did the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) develop postsecondary enrollment reports?
 - ❖ Postsecondary enrollment reports satisfy a federal reporting requirement for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) indicator (c)(11). In applying for funding under the SFSF program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Virginia (as the grantee) assured the United States Department of Education (USED) of compliance with all of the requirements for accountability, transparency and reporting. One requirement of the SFSF program was to report information on high school graduates' postsecondary enrollment outcomes.
2. What information do postsecondary enrollment reports provide about Virginia high school graduates?
 - ❖ Postsecondary enrollment reports show the number and percent of Virginia high school graduates who enrolled in an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) within sixteen months of graduating high school. Reports are available at the state, school division and school level for all students and by student subgroups.
3. Which graduates are included in postsecondary enrollment reports?
 - ❖ As required by USED, postsecondary enrollment reports include **only** Virginia graduates as defined for Virginia's Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI).
 - The FGI is calculated by following a group of students who started the ninth grade in the same school year; **and**
 - Includes students who earned Virginia's standard or advanced studies diplomas only; students who earned other Virginia Board of Education approved diplomas are not counted as graduates in the FGI.
 - Virginia is reporting postsecondary enrollment based on cohorts of graduates. Students reported as graduating within four, five and six years of first entering ninth grade are included in the postsecondary enrollment reports.

4. How did VDOE acquire data to produce postsecondary enrollment reports?
 - ❖ VDOE has entered into a data-sharing agreement with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) in order to produce the best available estimates of students' postsecondary enrollment outcomes.

5. What is the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)?
 - ❖ This is a nonprofit organization with extensive experience matching college enrollment data with high school graduation data.
 - ❖ For more than fifteen years, NSC has worked with IHE to collect student enrollment data while also maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of student records in full compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
 - ❖ Currently, the National Student Clearinghouse's database contains student enrollment records provided to the Clearinghouse every 30-45 days by more than 3,300 participating postsecondary institutions, which enroll 93% of all U.S. higher education students.
 - ❖ For more information please go to: <http://studentclearinghouse.org>

6. How does the National Student Clearinghouse match data from VDOE with postsecondary enrollment data?
 - ❖ The National Student Clearinghouse uses a proprietary algorithm (plus internal staff review) to compare records from VDOE against their national database of student-level postsecondary enrollment records.

7. Are the data accurate counts and percentages of Virginia graduates' postsecondary enrollment outcomes in Institutions of Higher Education nationwide?
 - ❖ The data represent the best available estimates at this time. There is currently no definitive source of all postsecondary enrollment records by state, school division or school.
 - ❖ VDOE and external researchers have determined that the best available estimates contained in the postsecondary enrollment reports are likely underestimates of the actual number of students who meet these requirements, but capture at least 88 percent of Virginia's public high school graduates' postsecondary enrollments (see Holian & Moker, 2011¹).

¹ Holian, L., and Moker, C. (2011). *Estimating college enrollment rates for Virginia public high school graduates*. (Issues & Answers Report, REL 2011–No. 104). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Appalachia. Retrieved from http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/appalachia/pdf/REL_2011104.pdf.

8. What are some of the reasons for the underestimates in the postsecondary enrollment reports?

- ❖ Some postsecondary institutions do not participate in the National Student Clearinghouse. As a result, Virginia graduates who attended these postsecondary institutions cannot be identified as enrolling in an IHE. All but four Virginia IHE participate in services offered by the National Student Clearinghouse.
- ❖ The National Student Clearinghouse uses an algorithm (and internal staff review) to match students from VDOE to students in their database. The quality of the match rate often depends upon the quality of data submitted by VDOE and the quality of data submitted to NSC by the participating postsecondary institutions. In some cases due to data error, students' high school and postsecondary records are not matched and therefore students IHE attendance status could be misidentified.
- ❖ Under FERPA, students may instruct their postsecondary institutions to withhold information from any agency or nonprofit organization requesting student directory information, which is the information released from the Clearinghouse. As a result, a small number of Virginia graduates who attended an IHE but requested that information not be shared would not be identified as enrolled in an IHE.

9. How often will the postsecondary enrollment reports be updated?

- ❖ The postsecondary enrollment reports will be updated annually as more data become available, typically once in the fall and once in the spring.

10. Where can I find more information about the IHE that participate in the National Student Clearinghouse?

- ❖ For a complete list of the IHE that participate in the National Student Clearinghouse visit:
<http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/colleges/coreserv/docs/CoreParticipants.xls>.

11. Where can I find more information about the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program?

- ❖ For more information about the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program please go to:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/school_finance/arra/stabilization/index.shtml.

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) In Virginia That Do Not Submit Student Enrollment Data to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

Institution Type	Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI) Year			
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Four-Year Public IHE	All Virginia four-year public IHE submit student enrollment data to the NSC.			
Four-Year Private IHE	1. Appalachian School of Law 2. Christendom College 3. Institute for the Psychological Sciences 4. Mary Baldwin College 5. Saint Paul's College	1. Appalachian School of Law 2. Christendom College 3. Institute for the Psychological Sciences 4. Mary Baldwin College 5. Saint Paul's College	1. Appalachian School of Law 2. Christendom College 3. Institute for the Psychological Sciences 4. Mary Baldwin College 5. Saint Paul's College	1. Appalachian School of Law 2. Christendom College 3. Institute for the Psychological Sciences 4. Mary Baldwin College
Two-Year Public IHE	1. Eastern Shore Community College 2. Richard Bland College	1. Richard Bland College	All Virginia two-year public IHE submit student enrollment data to NSC.	
Private For Profit IHE	Limited NSC data are available for students who enroll in private for-profit and/or vocational IHE in Virginia.			
Religious Degree Conferring IHE	Limited NSC data are available for students who enroll in private IHE in Virginia whose primary purpose is to confer religious degrees.			