Office of Research and Strategic Data Use Overview

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS
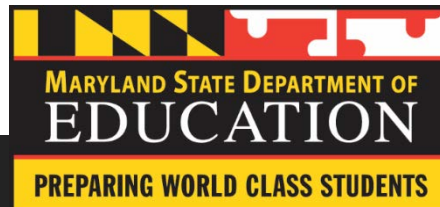
STATE BOARD MEETING

September 19, 2017

Purpose of Office of Research and Strategic Data Use

- Create an organizational research agenda

- Execute the research agenda
  - Design and conduct internal research and data-use projects
  - Build and manage research alliances with institutional and academic partners

- Develop school system capacity to use data and conduct research

Create an Organizational Research Agenda

- Determine the needs of the agency and develop a research agenda (a series of questions MSDE must answer to ensure the agency's policies and programs are effective).
  - Ex: Are schools and districts improving based on Maryland's accountability system?
  - Ex: Are professional development opportunities for teachers adequately addressing educators' needs?
  - Ex: What strategies have been successful in turning around low-performing high schools, and how can they be replicated at other schools?

- Create a plan for implementing the research agenda.
  Identify internal resources, external partners, and funding

Execute the Research Agenda

- Design and conduct internal research and data-use projects.

- Build and manage research alliances with institutional and academic partners.
    - Process and approve external data requests
    - Seek out and manage partnerships
    - Coordinate partnerships across MSDE's offices and divisions
    - Ensure all studies are high quality and beneficial to Maryland's students

Develop School System Capacity to Use Data and Conduct Research

- Provide training and/or technical support to Maryland's LEAs on describing and analyzing their own data, and selecting programs or interventions using strong standards of evidence.

- Provide technical support to districts as they evaluate the implementation of local programs.

Processing External Data Requests

All studies that require access to state data (student, staff, or other non-public data) must go through a review process prior to approval.

- Researchers must submit a proposal during four windows during the year.

- Proposals are reviewed by the Office of Research to ensure scientific rigor, appropriate research design, and alignment to MSDE's research agenda.

- Proposals are reviewed by MSDE's External Research Review Committee (ERRC) to ensure relevance to MSDE and Maryland, and a minimal resource burden.

- Granted requests will go through a standardized MOU process, with all documents reviewed by MSDE to ensure appropriate data use and privacy.