

AGENDA ITEM 6.

MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP) PARTICIPANT GRADUATION RATES AND OTHER NEW GRADUATION DATA

Submitted for: Information

Summary: In April, 2016, ISAC sent FY2008-FY2010 cohorts of MAP recipients to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to be matched to its database. The matched records were evaluated to determine attendance patterns and completion rates for the MAP recipient cohorts.

Separate cohorts of FAFSA filers who attended Chicago Public Schools (CPS) also were sent to the NSC to be matched and their completion rates were evaluated. Since 2007, ISAC has partnered with CPS to implement a FAFSA completion program to encourage CPS students to file for financial aid. As part of the project, ISAC regularly provides FAFSA completion data to CPS that lets them know which students had completed their FAFSA and which had not, so CPS could focus their efforts on students who had not yet completed their FAFSA.

Preliminary results:

- The data continues to show that MAP recipients graduate at about the same rate as other students at the same school. The measure for comparison is the IPEDS 6-year rate for first-time, full-time students. This graduation rate measures progress for traditional, dependent students.
- Average graduation rates for full-time dependent students vary by sector. Public universities have the highest average graduation rate (66%) for dependent full-time MAP recipients. Private institutions are close with an average rate of 64%. The average community college graduation rate is 44% for this group.
- Part-time students at community colleges graduate in 6 years at much lower rates, regardless of dependency status. Graduation rates in the upper teens to low 30s are the norm for all three years studied. A 6-year graduation rate is not tracking students long enough to get accurate information on part-time students at four-year institutions.
- There is a racial achievement gap among MAP recipients, as well as among non-MAP recipients. Black and Hispanic students graduate at lower rates than white students in all sectors. The largest gap was at public universities between black and white students (39 percentage points.) The smallest gap was at community colleges between Hispanic and white students (9 points.) While still large, these gaps are smaller than those found for the sectors as a whole.
- Preparation matters. Better prepared (as measured by ACT scores) Full-time MAP recipients are three times as likely to graduate in 6 years as the least prepared recipients.

- During the implementation of the CPS FAFSA completion program, both college enrollment levels and college completion rates have increased for CPS students. We were concerned that with more students electing to go to college that graduation rates would decline. However, graduation rates actually rose despite the increase in enrollment.
 - The majority of increases in enrollment occurred at community colleges but all sectors saw an increase.
 - During the same period of time, sector graduation rates increased for these students, especially at public universities.

Action requested: None.