

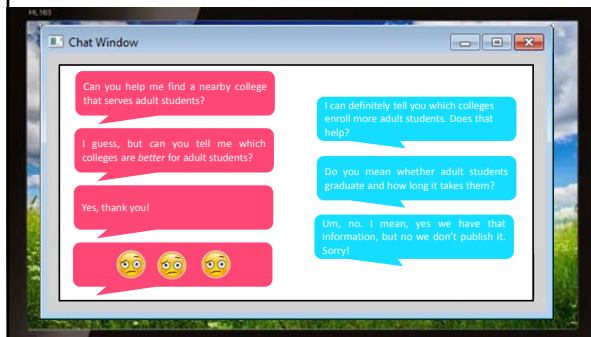
Redefining The National Postsecondary Data Framework: A Discussion on Best Practices in Data Reporting

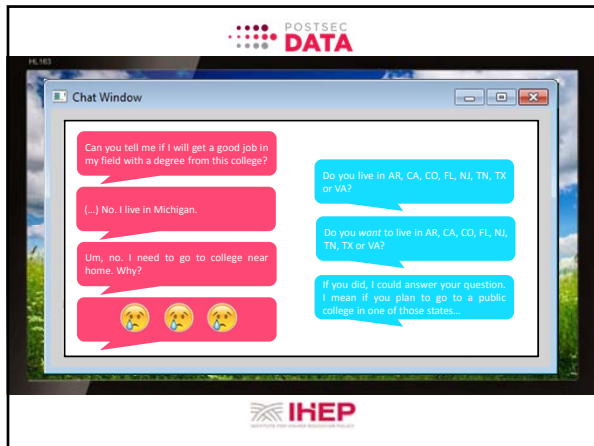
Improving data systems to improve student outcomes

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WHY IMPROVE POSTSECONDARY DATA?

Trillion dollar question

In an era of escalating college costs, what do students and the public invest in postsecondary education and what do they get in return?

DOES (ACCESS x COMPLETION) / COST
=
VALUE FOR STUDENTS & SOCIETY?

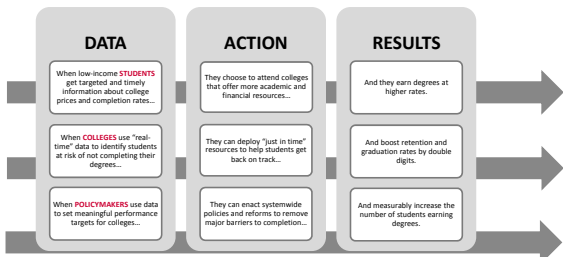
Can we adequately answer questions about postsecondary outcomes and value?

No.

Due to an incomplete and disconnected postsecondary data infrastructure, we have only partial or no answers to basic questions such as:

- How many **non-traditional students** attend college and do they successfully complete credentials? (This includes low-income, adult, and first-generation students as well as students who transfer and/or attend college part-time.)
- Do students who do not graduate **transfer** to other colleges and earn degrees, or do they **drop out** altogether?
- How much **debt** are students accumulating in college, and can they **repay** their loans?
- Are students obtaining **employment** in their field after college, and what do they **earn**?
- How much are students **learning** in college, and how are they **contributing to society**?

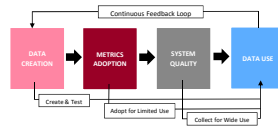
Do better data *really* lead to better outcomes? **Yes.**



HOW TO IMPROVE POSTSECONDARY DATA?

Postsecondary data theory of change

- There is clear evidence that **better data lead to better outcomes** in higher education.
- There are **two major barriers to obtaining better data at scale**: data quality (e.g. metrics) and data infrastructure (e.g. systems).
- Our work to date includes developing a **robust metrics framework** synthesizing advances in data quality in the field.
- Wide adoption of the framework requires **major improvements in data systems**.



Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

METRICS FRAMEWORK

POSTSEC DATA

Dozens of data initiatives yielded new & improved metrics demonstrating demand & use cases

Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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POSTSEC DATA

States recognize the value of postsecondary data, participating in a variety of data initiatives

represents the number of initiatives each state participates in.

Source: Institute for Higher Education Policy, <http://www.ihep.org/postsecdata/mapping-data-landscape/resources/states-crosswalk>

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POSTSEC DATA

Development process for the metrics framework

The metrics for the framework were not selected, or created, in a vacuum.

- IHEP and BMGF reviewed many voluntary data collection initiatives as well as national postsecondary data collections, like IPEDS, to determine where the field was converging on access, progression, completion, cost, and post-college outcome metrics.

We took the metrics framework on the road.

- IHEP and BMGF went to conferences and met with field experts to test the recommended metrics, solicit feedback, and incorporate their expertise into the framework.
- The metrics framework is a product not of closed-door meetings, but of the field's work over the past decade. A major goal is to accurately reflect where the field has converged already and recommend continued progress.

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POSTSEC DATA

Review of data initiatives, dashboards, funding formulas revealed field convergence around key metrics

Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

IHEP

POSTSEC DATA

States also vary in their collection of key postsecondary performance metrics

State Agency	AL	AK	AR	AR	CA (CCs)	CA (CSU)	CA (UC)	CO	CT	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	...	Total
Enrollment	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			53
Student prices																14
Debt																9
Persistence	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			52
Remedial course completion																37
Gateway course completion																18
Credit accumulation	+				+	+	+	+	+							49
Transfer-out	+	+	+		+	+	+	+								50
Graduation rate																25
Time to degree																18
Credits to degree																21
Credentials conferred	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			54
Employment rate																24
Earnings	+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			38
Total	5	5	3	10	6	6	9	7	10	4	11	14	9	2		

Source: Armstrong, J. & Zaback, K. (2016). Assessing and improving state postsecondary data systems. **IHEP**

POSTSEC DATA

Developing & disseminating a key performance metrics framework for wide scale field adoption

	ACCESS	PROGRESSION	COMPLETION	COST	POSTCOLLEGE OUTCOMES
PERFORMANCE	Enrollment	Credit Accumulation Credit Completion Ratio Gateway Course Completion Program of Study Selection Retention Rate Persistence Rate	Transfer Rate Graduation Rate Success Rate Completers	Net Price Unmet Need Cumulative Debt	Employment Rate Median Earnings Loan Repayment and Default Rates Graduate Education Rate Learning Outcomes
EFFICIENCY	Expenditures per Student	Cost for Credits Not Completed Cost for Completing Gateway Courses Change in Revenue from Change in Retention	Time/Credits to Credential Cost of Excess Credits to Credential Completions per Student	Student Share of Cost Expenditure per Completion	Earnings Threshold
EQUITY	Enrollment by (at least) Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity	Progression Performance by (at least) Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity	Completion Performance by (at least) Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity	Net Price and Unmet Need by (at least) Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity Debt by (at least) Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity, Completion Status	Outcomes Performance and Earnings by (at least) Preparation, Economic Status, Age, Race/Ethnicity, Completion Status

Key Student Characteristics

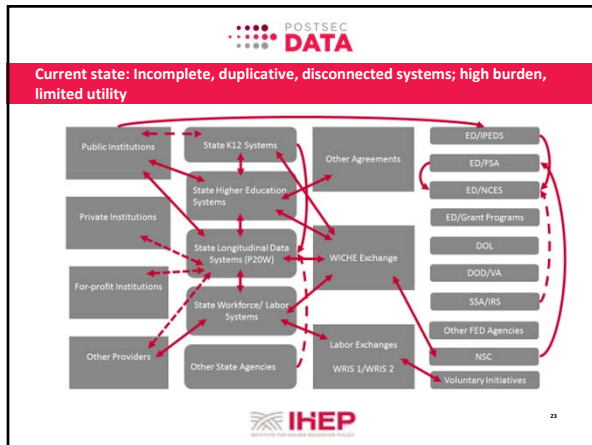
- Enrollment Status
- Attendance Intensity
- Credential Seeking Status
- Program of Study
- Academic Preparation
- Economic Status
- Race/Ethnicity
- Age
- Gender
- First-Generation Status

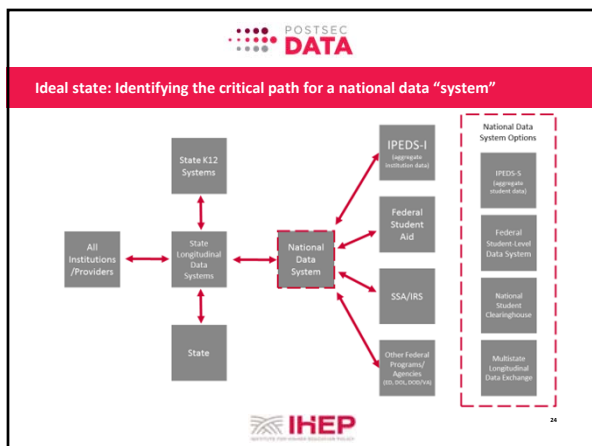
Key Institutional Characteristics


- Sector
- Level
- Credential/Program Mix
- Size
- Resources
- Selectivity
- Diversity
- Monthly saving Institution (MSI) Status
- Post-traditional Populations
- Mobility

IHEP

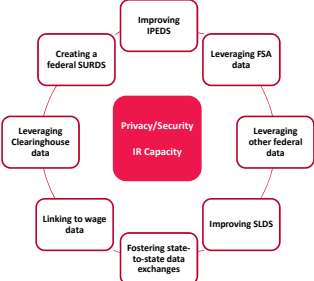
DATA INFRASTRUCTURE









Envisioning the National Postsecondary Data Infrastructure in the 21st Century

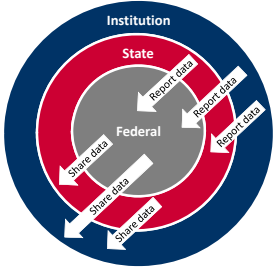





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Toward a coherent national data policy



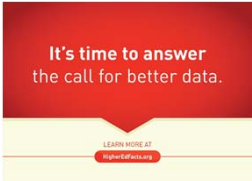


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Thank You!

Follow us on Twitter: [@PostsecData](#) or visit us on the Web at www.ihep.org/postsecdata.



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Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

