

## Technical Review Panel No. 45 Outcome Measures

### Final Actions

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has taken steps to enhance outcome information and transfer reporting in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The IPEDS Outcome Measures (OM) component, first collected in the IPEDS 2015-16 collection year, was developed in response to recommendations from the 2012 Committee on Measures of Student Success report to the Secretary of the Department of Education and was informed by the outcome and public comments from previous IPEDS Technical Review Panels<sup>1</sup> (i.e., TRPs 37 and 40).

On September 22 and 23, 2014, RTI International, the contractor for IPEDS web-based data collection system, convened a meeting of the IPEDS TRP in Washington, DC to revisit the OM component and consider any further changes that would help inform policymakers, consumers, and other stakeholders, and further improve outcome data in IPEDS. The panel consisted of 54 individuals representing institutions, researchers and other data users, state governments, the federal government, higher education associations, and others. This TRP considered a number of issues related to the OM component, including the following topics: collecting multiple cohort years, time-to-degree durations, time intervals, and subsequent awards earned from other institutions. In addition, the TRP deliberated on collecting outcomes by demographics and using Federal Student Aid data. In these discussions, the issue of identifying Pell students and tracking their outcomes was identified as an important need to policymakers, researchers, and the public.

Following the meeting, RTI posted a summary of the TRP suggestions to the web ([https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS\\_TRP/Default.aspx](https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS_TRP/Default.aspx)) for public comment. RTI solicited comments by notifying keyholders and coordinators through a “This Week in IPEDS” email announcement and encouraged member associations involved in the TRP to notify their constituents and stakeholders. Comments were left open for approximately 30 days and the comment period closed on December 8, 2014. RTI received 13 comments from interested parties in response to the posting. Following the comment period, RTI outlined recommendations for NCES based on the outcome of the TRP meetings and subsequent public comment period. NCES has taken the actions listed below.

### Proposed Changes to the Outcome Measures Component, 2017-18

NCES has received thoughtful public comments and expert suggestions for improving the OM survey to collect more information on Pell Grant recipients, as several TRPs (TRPs 24, 37, 40, 45, and 50) have encouraged NCES to collect information on this vulnerable population.

In February 2016, NCES requested clearance from the Office of Management and Budget for the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 IPEDS data collections. The clearance package included several proposed changes, including a proposal to begin collecting outcome information on Pell Grant recipients in the OM component starting with the 2017-18 data collection. The initial proposed change for the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 collections was the addition of a fifth cohort, Pell Grant recipients; however, after reviewing feedback in response to the request for comments<sup>2</sup> on proposed changes, NCES determined the expansion of the OM component to collect data on Pell

---

<sup>1</sup> Meetings of the IPEDS TRP are conducted by RTI to solicit expert discussion and suggestions on a broad range of issues related to postsecondary education and the conduct of IPEDS. The TRP is designed to allow the public to advise and work with RTI to improve IPEDS data collection and products, data quality, and user-friendliness. The TRP does not report to or advise the Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> (Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 32, pp. 8181- 8182, February 18, 2016)

Grant recipients would benefit from broader industry input. RTI convened TRP 50 in August 2016 to discuss the potential for further changes to this component and the impact of the changes to institutions, researchers, and the Department of Education. The proposed changes were originally suggested during the 60-day and 30-day public comment periods and were further discussed and formulated during TRP 50. NCES submitted a subsequent IPEDS clearance request to OMB in November 2016 for proposed amendments to the OM component for the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 data collections. NCES received clearance from OMB to implement the proposed changes to the OM component, starting with the 2017-18 data collection for entering cohort year 2009-10. (See Final Actions from TRP 50 [https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS\\_TRP\\_DOCS/prod/documents/TRP50\\_FinalAction.pdf](https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS_TRP_DOCS/prod/documents/TRP50_FinalAction.pdf) for approved changes to the OM component for the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 data collections).